Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2015

**Commission Members Present:**
Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Resta Detwiler
Jackie Bissell
Jerry McCarthy, Selectmen’s Rep.

**Commission Members Absent:**Richard Ballou, excused
Laura Bogardus, excused

**Others Present:**Resident Rod Thompson

**1). Call to Order:**Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**2). Pledge of Allegiance:**All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3). Public Comment**: None.

**4). Review of Minutes**: September 9, 2015
**Motion:** (Detwiler,) to approve as written; no 2nd.
Page 1, item 5, Ronci Conservation Deed- Vice Chairman Orvis questioned if the purpose in the deed includes language that stipulates the handicapped fishing area is for “catch and release” only as could be implied from the minutes. After some discussion Chairman Connolly said he will check the wording in the deed and inform the members of his findings.
Page 2, item 6, New Business-Dubois Property- Amend “Urich” to “Yurick”.
**Motion:** (Detwiler, second Bissell) to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

**5). Old Business:***A). Dubois Mowing Quote*- Chairman Connolly reported he received a quote of $300 to mow the Dubois property field.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second McCarty) to approve the payment of $300 to Steve Yurick to mow the Dubois property field passed unanimously.
*B). French Habitat Maintenance Quote*- Chairman Connolly told members he received a quote from Steve Yurick to maintain the woodcock habitat on the French property for $1,000.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second Bissell) to approve the payment of $1,000 to Steve Yurick for maintenance of the woodcock area on the French property passed unanimously.
*C). French Walk-* Discussion included reconfiguration of the trail proposed by BH Keith, difficult terrain on the other side of the woodcock area, movement of the trail away from the logging trail, changing conditions along the trail area and Keith’s trail plan eliminates of some features to be found along the existing trail area such as the upside down question tree, vernal pools and remnants of an old mill. Members will meet at the French property parking lot on Hornetown Road at 9 a.m. to walk the site.
*D). Town Forest Update*- Chairman Connolly said all of the necessary permits for the forest management work, including the driveway permit are in place and the Intent to Cut Notification has been approved. Member Jackie Bissell reported that she observed that the work is underway at the site.
*E). Ronci Update*- The commission will meet at the Ronci property on River Road on October 27 following the French property walk for an initial review of the site.
*F). Other Old Business-*
*MMRG Mixer*- Chairman Connolly reminded members the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways Mixer will be hosted by the Farmington Cons. Com. at the Town Hall. The roundtable is an opportunity for members of the seven area Conservation Commissions to get together for a meet and greet and to discuss problems and successes. He said the group is considering holding the meeting on Nov.19 or Dec. 3 and will he confirm the date once it is determined.
*Mad River Contamination*- Selectman McCarthy asked if the source of the contamination found at the Mad River has been found. Chairman Connolly said he passed the information collected by FHS students along to the NH Dept. of Environmental Services but has yet to receive a response.
*Aquifer Protection Overlay District Update-* Member Resta Detwiler told the commission the Planning Committee has reviewed the existing ordinance, the state model ordinance and discussed proposed changes to the ordinance to expand the protection area to include town well #6 which must be approved by voters at Town Meeting. She said an update was given to the Planning Board on Oct. 6 and to the Economic Development Committee on Oct. 7 by Interim Planner Liz Durfee. A joint meeting between the Planning Board and the EDC is planned for Nov. 3 as part of the Planning Board workshop meeting. Chairman Connolly said he will contact Ms. Durfee about speaking to the Cons. Com. at the next meeting.
*Lock Boxes*- Member Jackie Bissell asked if the lock boxes for the gates at the Town Forest, Dubois Lane and the French property have been installed. Chairman Connolly said the boxes have been received but he has not had time to install them.
*Blue Job Trail Signs*- Member Detwiler asked about the progress of the signs to be placed along the trails on Blue Job Mountain. Chairman Connolly said someone “dropped the ball” and the project was not completed. He said the 12 signs will be now be made by the NH Parks and Rec. Dept. who will also determine where and how the signs will be installed. He said the dept. will notify him when the signs are ready for installation and noted that they have the equipment but need the hands to get them installed.

**6). New Business:** None.

**7). School Outreach**- Member Detwiler said she has not contacted anyone at the three schools as she did not have all the materials ready for projects at all student levels. She said she planned to present the program to the school Principals and the Guidance Depts. when the projects are ready and seek their review and approval. She then asked for ideas for how to involve high school students. Chairman Connolly suggested most projects can be tailored to all age groups such as anti-littering and recycling projects and field trips. He also suggested she make an appointment to meet with the new Environmental Sciences teacher at the high school and discuss recruiting student members to the Cons. Com. and ideas for future projects. He suggested she enlist help from commission members and added the biggest mission is public education about conservation issues whether they are kindergarteners or retirees.

**8). F.Y.I.:**Vice Chairman Orvis reported receipt of Intent to Cut Notification for Tax Map R13, Lot 10. He said 55 acres of the 76 acre property located on Hawthorne Road will be cut.

**9). Any Other Business:**
*Invoice-* Chairman Connolly said he received an invoice for payment of management services from BH Keith for the Town Forest and French properties.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second McCarthy) to pay $315 for management services to BH Keith Associates passed unanimously.
*Recorded lncidents on Conservation Lands*- Vice Chairman Orvis reported driving down to the French property on River Road and how he was appalled by what was recorded by security cameras there. He did not give any details about the incidents. Chairman Connolly added that several incidents were also recorded at the Town Forest and the perpetrators were identified by the Farmington Police. He said he later agreed to allow the individuals to perform community service in lieu of prosecution.

**10). Next Meeting:**The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 11, 2015. After some discussion, the members decided to change the start time for the meetings.
**Motion:** (Orvis, second McCarthy) to move the start time back to 6 p.m. passed unanimously.

Chairman Connolly also reminded members that the NH Conservation Commission Association Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 7 in Pembroke. Members Jackie Bissell, Resta Detwiler and Rose Muise are scheduled to attend the meeting.

**11). Adjournment:
Motion:** (Orvis, second McCarthy) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 8 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary