Town of Farmington
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, November 11, 2015

**Commission Members Present:**Dave Connolly, Chairman
Randy Orvis, Vice Chairman
Resta Detwiler
Jackie Bissell
Laura Bogardus (6:30 p.m.)
Jerry McCarthy, Selectmen’s Rep.

**Commission Members Absent:**Richard Ballou- excused
Rose Muise

**Others Present:**Kari Lygren, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG)
Deborah Goard, Southeast Land Trust (SELT)
Residents Kerri Scruton, Rod Thompson

**1). Call to Order:**Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

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

**4). SELT/Smith Property:**Deborah Goard, SELT Smith Property Easement Stewardship Director told the members she came before the commission to update the records and provide a baseline documentation report on the parcel as is required for all conservation easements. Ms. Goard said she met with Mr. and Mrs. Smith in July to walk the property and write a current condition report of the site. She asked the members to review the report and provide comments and will ask the Smith’s to do the same. Ms. Goard then asked if the maps of the Town’s conservation lands need to be updated, corrected or to make changes to the narrative and noted that the GRANIT mapping system isn’t always up to date. Chairman Connolly said the maps need to be updated to include the Cameron’s land swap and the Ronci property which is a three acre strip of land located between the French and Dubois properties. She added she would like to receive their comments by Dec.18. Chairman Connolly said the members will review the report at their Dec. 9 meeting and then sign it and forward it to the Selectmen for approval. Chairman Connolly said the Fire Dept. would like to have a Knox Box placed on the gate at the access to the property but did not know if the Smith’s were willing/able to spend the money for the box. He asked if this something that SELT would be willing to provide. Ms. Goard said she would check to see if there is money available for this purpose.

**5). MMRG Mixer:**Kari Lygren of Moose Mountains Regional Greenways came before the commission to discuss plans for the third Annual Conservation Commissions Mixer to be held on Monday, December 3, 2015 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the American Legion at 526 Main Street, Farmington. The event will be co-hosted by the Farmington Conservation Commission and the MMRG. Scheduled speakers include Nik Coates, Executive Director of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, Amanda Stone from the UNH Cooperative Extension and Paul Susca of NH DES who will discuss the Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative. Following the speakers a roundtable discussion of the problems and successes encountered by the area Conservation Commissions will be held. Discussion included the scheduled program, if the hall is big enough for the number of attendees expected, refreshments, cups, plates and napkins to be provided by the members.

**6). Old Business:
*A). French Property*-**
1. Woodcock Lot- Chairman Connolly reported the maintenance of the woodcock area has been completed. He said Steve Yurick reported some challenges with the abundance of saplings and debris in the area but he was able to complete the work and has submitted his invoice to the commission. He added that Barry Keith of BH Keith Associates reported he was satisfied with the quality of Yurick’s work.
2. Trail- Chairman Connolly said the trail walk did not take place on Oct. 27 as scheduled as no one showed up. Members plan to re-schedule the walk in the spring.
***B). Dubois Mowing***- Chairman Connolly reported the mowing at the site has been completed. He said Mr. Yurick suggested that next year the mowing should be done in July before the Goldenrod goes to seed.
***C). Town Forest-*** Connolly told the commission that the timber harvest is complete, the skidder trail has been blocked, the Minor Wetlands Impact permit was approved and the culvert was installed by the Department of Public Works. He added that there have been no revenues received from the timber harvest as of yet.
***D). Ronci Property***- Members tentatively scheduled a walk of the property for Nov. 23rd or 24th.
***E). Other Old Business***- Selectman McCarthy asked about the protection of the parcels in the Town Forest that do not have conservation easements. Chairman Connolly said any property given through the town to the Conservation Commission does not need an easement and is protected forever.

**7). School Outreach:**Resta Detwiler told the members she e-mailed the Principals and Guidance Counselors at the town’s three schools regarding starting an anti-littering/recycling program and has received responses from the Middle and High School Principals who expressed an interest in having a program at their schools. She said she is working on a Power Point presentation and plans to meet with Jackie Bissell to gather course materials for the program from a related class they attended in Manchester.
Aquifer Protection Overlay District- Ms. Detwiler also told the members that a joint meeting of the Planning Board and the Economic Development Committee was held on Nov. 3 to discuss potential changes to the existing Aquifer Protection Overlay District Ordinance. A presentation was given by the Interim Planner Liz Durfee that included a proposed expansion of the district to include the area surrounding town well #6 and uses not allowed in the district. She said a public hearing on the proposal will be held in December.

**8). NHACC Meeting:**Members Detwiler and Bissell attended the NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting and attended three workshops about involving youth in environmental programs, protection and management of conservation lands and effective communication. Members said they learned a lot at the workshops and some of the information may be worked into school outreach programs. Members said they enjoyed the meeting but added the food was “terrible”.

**9). New Business:**
***A). By- Laws***- Chairman Connolly asked the members to review the existing committee by-laws and recommend any needed changes at the December meeting which will then be voted on in January.
***B). 2016 Meeting Dates***- Members received the list of the monthly meeting dates and other dates of interest for 2016. Consensus of the committee was to approve the schedule.
***C). Any Other New Business***- None.

**10). Review of Minutes:**October 14, 2015- Page 1, Agenda item #5, Selectman McCarthy’s name is misspelled.
**Motion:** (Detwiler, second Orvis) to approve the minutes as amended passed 5-1 (Bogardus abstained).

**11). F.Y.I.:**
*A). Intent to Cut Notices* were received for the following properties:
Tax Map R56, Lot 5-1, Meaderboro Road, 60 acres
Tax Map R26, Lot 2, Sheepboro Road, 60 acres
Tax Map R26, Lot 1 Sheepboro Road, 160 acres
Tax Map R36, Lot 6 Pound Road, 63 acres
*B). Wetlands minimum impact forestry permit* was approved by DES for Tax Map R12, Lot 1.

**12). Any Other Business**: None.

**13). Adjournment:**
**Motion:** (Orvis, second Bogardus) to adjourn the meeting passed 6-0 at 7 p.m.

Respectively submitted
Kathleen Magoon
Recording Secretary