

MOULTONBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF 6/1/2015

Meeting started at 7 PM. Members present, Marie Samaha, Chair, Bill Gassman, Secretary, Bob Patenaude, John Oliver, Ed Harrington, Scott Bartlett (liaison w/Planning Board), Alt. Jim Nelson, Alt. Brian Sanford.

Minutes:

The meeting opened with a review of the minutes from May 5 and 15, 2015 meetings. Bob P moved to accept the both sets of minutes as written, John O seconded and it was approved unanimously.

Permits/Applications/Correspondence/Complaints:

The group discussed a May 18th letter from the NH DES, regarding NHEC Alteration of Terrain application for a solar farm on Moultonborough Neck. The ConCom performed a field review of the site and submitted a report to the DES. In response, the DES is asking for more information from NHEC on several items, including storm water management for the access road.

It was noted that there are very few permits coming through, when compared to last year.

Lee's Pond Preserve

- The expected land appraisal had not been received as of the June 1 meeting (it came in on June 4th). A special meeting is planned to discuss a response to the appraisal.
- A consultant contract was returned with comments to Anna B along with a request to meet with her after the appraisal is discussed among the Commission but before she meets with the property owner
- The group discussed a suggestion made by Keith Nelson, that the name of the property reflect its position in the watershed of the Red Hill River. In that context, it is protected by Lakes Region Conservation Trust and Nature Conservancy. The ConCom is generally in agreement that this is a good idea, but there are issues to discuss before making changes.
- A mechanism to collect raised funds to protect the property is still to be determined. The ConCom requirements are that a fund mechanism must satisfy the requirements to be tax deductible to donors and be separate from town funds.
- Issues of deed holder, easement rights and stewardship are still unresolved.

CC Goals/Master Plan

- This agenda item precipitated a long discussion about the vision and mission of the ConCom, along with tactics that can better accomplish goals. It is understood that meeting any complicated goals requires more of the public taking action, and being better aware of steps to protect the environment on a personal level.

- The Milfoil Committee, Community Garden, watershed study, storm water ordinance and the Lees Pond Ramp runoff protection were brought up as examples of actions that are in concert with the Conservation Commissions goals.
- The issue of the town's commercial zone planning along Route 25 came up. The ConCom feels it should be contributing to these plans, to help point out where the natural wildlife corridors and sensitive wetlands are and where commercial zones may not be appropriate.
- When talking about local environmental issue, storm water runoff is considered the number one cause of water quality problems.
- The group will hold an organizational meeting in June to refine issues, goals and objectives. Comments on the distributed proposals are due by June 8'th.

Moultonborough School Request from Shaw Smith

Discussed a response to a letter from high school science teacher, Shaw Smith, asking for sponsorship of students for the North American Envirothon this summer in Springfield, Missouri. Bill made a motion to donate \$100 out of the Conservation Commission operations budget. Ed seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Sale of Town Property Memo

The ConCom received a memo from the town asking for an opinion on the environmental value of various properties up for sale by the town. The ConCom does not see any unique conservation value in the properties listed.

Other Business:

- The ConCom is looking for a consultant to help update the natural resource inventory.
- Marie will be attending the LCHIP grant writing workshop.

Adjourn: – Ed made motion at 9:01 to adjourn the meeting, Bob seconded and it passed.

Minutes submitted June 8, 2015 by Bill Gassman; Secretary and Marie Samaha; Chair