

Conservation Commission Minutes

April 8, 2013

Chairman Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:03. Other members in attendance were Celia Abrams, Cheryl Smith, Noel Carlson, Kristen Lamb, Deb Kimball and Raelene Shippee-Rice, Alternate, sitting in for Sue Mooney.

Minutes: The minutes for March 11, 2013 were reviewed and accepted as amended. The motion was made by Smith, seconded by Kimball; all seven votes were in favor.

Roadside Cleanup:

A roadside cleanup was scheduled for Monday, 4/15, 2:30 – 4:00pm. Demeritt will pick up the equipment. Demeritt, Abrams, Lamb and Carlson will meet at the library to do Rt 152 and the portion of Rt 156 from the Library to the church. Kimball will do Rt 156 from the square to the church at a time convenient to her schedule.

Saving Special Places Conference:

Demeritt, Abrams and Kimball attended the SSP conference in Weare on Saturday, 4/6. Many interesting sessions were attended, several concerning the impact of climate change, and the regional planning and conservation efforts needed to protect critical habitats for whichever species might adapt to populate them in the future. Kimball noted that the last of the regional planning listening sessions for the Strafford region will be held 5/14, 6-9pm at Sanborn Regional HS in Kingston. Previous meetings have not had much input from the conservation perspective, so members are encouraged to attend to articulate these issues. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Lamb to reimburse the three participants for registration fees (\$60 each) and Abrams for mileage for the group.

Bear-Paw Report: Demeritt said that there would be an Easement Monitoring Training Session offered on April 27 in Deerfield, 9am-2pm. There will be an event on May 11 at the Cummings Conservation Center. See the Bear-Paw.org website for details on upcoming events. The Biothon is 6/15. Smith would like to be on one of the three teams. Abrams offered to be a scribe for one of the teams. There will be a walk and sampling of wild edibles later in the day.

LRWA Report: The VRAP refresher training will be on 5/25, 9-11:30, at the DES office in Concord. Shippee-Rice may attend. Abrams will re-send the email from Ted Walsh and will get the Nottingham kit to DES for its annual tune-up. Water testing will start the 5/25 weekend and run every other weekend throughout the summer. Ed Viel will participate again this year.

Commission nominations:

Mooney and Kimball are up for re-appointment to the Commission. Abrams moved to re-nominate them for 3-year terms, seconded by Smith, 7 votes in favor.

Correspondence:

- Wetlands permit: We received an application being submitted by the town for a permit to remove 4 submerged rocks from the swimming area at the town beach. The rocks have resulted in some injuries. Mark West, working with the town on the application, suggested a letter of support from the CC would be helpful. We decided we could not submit this letter without more information on what was to be done.
- DES Shoreline Permit: We received a copy of a notice of accepted application for St. Pierre at 34 Dolloff Dam Rd, Map 70, Lot 3. The application was submitted by Ames Associates and Nicol Roseberry. No details were given on the nature of the work.
- Bear-Paw donor event: Demeritt shared an invitation to CC members for this event, to be held in Strafford, 162 Joalco Rd, on Friday 4/12 at the home of Carolyn and Gordon Page. RSVP to Dan Kern.
- DES Drinking Water Protection Conference will be on 5/1 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, 8:30am. Kimball attended.

Prime Wetlands Designation:

Heidi Seaverns has been in communication with various parties (ODonnell, UNH GRANIT rep, Mark West, others?) about ways to create maps that layer the newly digitized tax maps with data on wetlands and other features currently available for mapping within the GRANIT GIS system. Seaverns offered a couple approaches to create maps but also mentioned that West had additional information that might lower the priority for this project. Demeritt will invite West to our May meeting to enlighten us. Strafford Regional GIS expert Kyle Pimentel has also communicated to Abrams that they could create maps for us.

Other Business:

Lamb encouraged us to hold another public walk on one of the conservation properties in town. We thought a walk to show the Terninko cottontail rabbit habitat work might be good, including looking for spring birds and wildflowers. Abrams will ask Terninko if he could join us on 5/18 or 6/1. Several CC members can contribute expertise to the walk.

A motion to adjourn was made by Carlson and seconded by Kimball. All votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Celia Abrams, Temporary Secretary

These minutes were accepted as amended at the meeting held on June 10, 2013.
Corrections have been made.