

ATKINSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES      APRIL 9, 2003

Present: Carole Hall, Scott Kukshel, Peter McVay, Paul Wainwright  
(Alternates): Ray Gordon, Michelle Veasey

Scott Kukshel, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Minutes March 3, 2003 were reviewed with 4. a. line 3 spelling correction 'ordinances' and 8. a. change to lower case 'conservation grant'.

Motion to approve as corrected by Paul Wainwright, seconded by Ray Gordon.

Approved with one abstention, Carole Hall.

Correspondence items:

- 1) Saturday workshop in Hopkinton titled Conservation Tools;
- 2) NHDES order on Administrative Hearing held for Bill Johnson, Little Rob Rd. who was fined \$5500 for multiple violations of dredging without a permit;
- 3) DES Drinking Water Assessment Report;
- 4) Letter from OSP that Steve Walker visited Atkinson to walk land behind town community center and submitted report with recommendations;
- 5) Letter from Valerie Zrada to conservation commissions of Atkinson, Hampstead and Plaistow asking about policy of motorized vehicles on town lands.

Discussion was held on trail usage by motorized vehicles. Scott will talk with selectmen. OSP Drinking Water report will be cc to Planning Board.

Business:

Sawyer Ave. Abutter to town owned conservation managed ROW parcel, who is using the town owned land for his driveway, wanted to cut trees and requested to pave gravel driveway, which is on town owned /conservation land. Discussion on notifying abutter every seven years of his use that the parcel is town owned conservation, that the parcel ROW should be available for public access for public use. It was recommended that Scott should meet with selectmen and possible legal counsel.

Planning Board minutes were reviewed. No action was needed.

Planning session was held to discuss prime wetlands education and actions needed. Commission has received copies of the prime wetland report and maps from consultant. Inaccuracies of tax map matching wetland boundaries mapping with consultant report were discussed: including mapping systems, resolutions, costs and terra mapping. Education ideas as to informative sessions included suggestion from Sandy Crystal, DES Wetlands Bureau, as to four different meetings: basic education, what is a wetland value and functions, how designated, field visit to one or more wetlands in town, prime wetland process and changes, and presentation of our wetland study. Suggestions for educational process included use of town newsletter, DES website, NHACC.org, links to other websites, basic fact sheets, public presentation by DES to be aired or taped to be shown on local cable, etc. A joint workshop with planning board was suggested to start the planning process. Suggestion to identify large land areas and stakeholders and talk with them as part of the process.

There was a discussion on how to proceed.

Paul said he would try to schedule us for the planning board workshop the following week to discuss planning strategies. Commission discussed writing and sending a

newsletter to the townspeople followed by a presentation. Then to schedule a second workshop with the planning board to talk about zoning regulations, draft, the official public hearing.

Grant proposal submitted by Pete McVay for moose license monies was approved. The official grant documents need to be written, signed and approved by selectmen. The grant materials will be available for next meeting, commission was just notified but documents are in the mail. Commission discussed the grant proposal, work issues, project task and time frame: volunteers needed, producing maps of conservation lands, mailings and publicity, GPS trail mapping and interpretation. The project is to map existing trails. Peter McVay is the coordinator for this project.

Commission discussed signage – project of placing signs on town owned conservation lands was suggested to roll over into this grant project.  
Easement acquisition – suggested education of purchase of conservation easements and education about acquisition to be part of this project.

Michelle Veasey is getting her masters degree at UNH in environmental science and asked the conservation members to fill out environmental surveys as part of her final project.

Next meeting will be Monday May 5 at 7:30 pm at Atkinson Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn made by Paul Wainwright, seconded by Peter McVay. Unanimous.

Carole Hall  
Corresponding Secretary