

ATKINSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

JUNE 2, 2003

Present: Scott Kukshel, Tim Dziechowski, Carole Hall, Peter McVay, Alice Ward, Paul Wainwright, Michelle Veasey

Guest: Valerie Zrada

Scott Kukshel, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Short discussion on town web site, where there is a conservation e-mail account and members need to contact Scott or Tim to set up access: conservation@toa.mv.com

Scott introduced Valerie Zrada, Crown Hill rd who expressed concerns about ATV's ripping up town forest lands. Her comments included: trail is inaccessible in areas, need to bushwhack, impedes on fragile wetland areas like vernal pools, referenced state law against unauthorized dredging on trails, access to three town conservation lands where trails are ripped up, heron rookery in next town has been damaged, local access off East Rd at town line and Pine Knoll through private property. She submitted pictures and Fish & Game pamphlet. She showed big muddy hole at least 60 ft. long, hemlock forest near Plaistow, spring on either side of trail, which had been breached and covered trail 150 linear ft. with rutted tire tracks.

Tim had walked the trail and stated that it was impossible to determine whether some of the areas were on town land or on privately owned parcels. He also stated he had walked the Sawyer parcel and the damage there was worse where there were 'donut holes' ruts on the Turkey Field area. Pete talked about the significant root damage shown in the pictures. Tim submitted letter from Plaistow conservation commission where the town had acted to ban motorized vehicles from town property. The Atkinson selectmen are holding a public hearing next Mon on this subject. There is also a three town conservation meeting planned for June 19 at Plaistow Town Hall where three commissions are invited to discuss this issue. Consensus was for the chair to write a letter to the selectmen on this issue, suggesting a ban or moratorium, at least temporarily. Also there is a need to educate and instruct public on rules and procedures as to law. Discussion continued as to how to enforce regulations. Note that it is important to maintain the integrity of the wetlands due to value as water source. Suggestions as to signs detailing fines and posting lands. Action items: write letter and express that public safety vehicles are excluded, concern for ADA compliance, be present for hearing next Mon, and also for meeting at Plaistow town hall.

Carole Hall made a motion, seconded by Peter McVay to write letter to selectmen expressing concerns and suggest a moratorium at least temporary on town conservation lands due to damage on trails by unauthorized vehicles. ***Passed unanimously.***

There was discussion on presentation for public hearing next week as to pictures and materials to use and materials and equipment needed.
At conclusion of discussion, Valerie Zrada left meeting.

Internal business: Waive action on May minutes. Treasurer report: No expenditures

Chair passed out Landowner Guide Conservation Easement booklets. Pete will prepare insert, wording as agreed by commission as to property of commission on loan.

Town Administrator notice as to mid – June town newsletter for conservation input. Suggestion that would be good timing and place for ATV education article.

Correspondence items listed below:

-) Rockingham Regional Planning annual meeting at Village Square,
-) Newsletter from Big Island Pond Assoc.,
-) Conservation Grants available,
-) Danville Town Forest Spring Tour June 7 with C. Marino to conduct tour.
Meet at 1755 Meeting House Rte 111A at 8:30 a.m.,
-) NH Coverts Project Wed – Sat Sept. 10-13 at Sargents Camp, Peterborough,
Applications due June 25,
-) Wetlands Preservation Inc. selling wetlands plant stock.

Dredge and Fill

Dean and Susan Killam, expedited application to dredge and fill less than 3,000 sq. ft for roadway and driveway fill for residential lot development off Westside Dr. off Millstream Dr. Existing subdivision has right of way access to Killam land. Commission reviewed proposed application, reviewed plans, read Planning Board minutes of public hearing into record, and noted that there is a site walk planned for Wed. June 4. and conservation is invited to join. Discussion included: concerns of ownership of right of way access to parcel, nature and value of extensive wetlands on site, including proximity to Spicket River of direct tributary of Hogg Brook, limitations of expedited application process, that by signing off we are agreeing to the application as submitted, reservations of members to do so, common driveway off Westside Dr, existing dam, one lot which planning board minutes said would not be built on but plans show it as a house lot and there is no protection for that not to happen at some time in future

Motion Made by Peter McVay, seconded by Alice Ward not to authorize chair to sign off on this expedited application due to question of ownership of access right of way and beyond that the nature and type of extensive wetlands throughout entire parcel warrants additional protective conditions beyond scope of expedited application process.

Passed Unanimously

State of New Hampshire Dredge and Fill plans for two bridges over Little River on Rte 121 at Plaistow/ Atkinson town line. Two bridges, one for public road and second to access business currently existing as Pet Shop. Proposed bridge to be in new location due to fact of no convenient detour during work stage. Bridge was built in 1940's and is on state Red List meaning it is structurally deficient. Project is proposed to start Oct 2003 and continue until spring 2005. The commission reviewed the plans and discussed the proposed project.

Motion by Alice Ward, seconded by Pete McVay to authorize Scott Kukshtel, as chair, to sign off on the project due to need for public safety.

Passed Unanimously

Commission discussed the upcoming Conservation Bulletin as prepared by Pete McVay. Several members had written several of the included articles. Members reviewed the draft with some revised changes. Articles include upcoming wetlands talk by DES Sandy Crystal, and conservation easement information. Suggestions that later edition include info on ATV's. Grant status was discussed. All the paperwork has not been received nor signed yet. RCCP is facilitator of grant. There is a need of \$600 for printing and \$400 for mailing of this newsletter in accordance with grant proposal acceptance.

Motion made by Carole Hall, seconded by Tim Dziechowski to authorize use of conservation budget monies in the amount of up to \$1000 to print and mail this newsletter, with the understanding that when the grant paperwork is complete, the amount will be refunded by grant. **Passed Unanimously**

Tim discussed mowing needed for recreation field behind Town Community Center. There was a request from Patti Mangini that it be mowed this spring before town recreation use. There is \$600 in care of grounds for the mowing. Tim said if he can, he will do it voluntarily, if he cannot do the mowing, then he will contact Tim Stewart to see if he can mow it or arrange for someone to be employed to do it.

Members discussed publicity suggestions for upcoming wetlands talk scheduled for Thurs, June 26 at Atkinson Town Hall. Barbara Snicer will coordinate workers so talk is televised and taped for additional showing. Suggestions included posters in various locations, press release, web site, and cable listing.

Atkinson Board of Adjustment minutes were reviewed. In particular it was noted that Dave Bushek, 8 Stickney Rd. Map 23 Lot 49 was approved for deck with wetland setback waived. Paul Currier, Sleepy Hollow, returned per court decision with local latitude to determine place and size of residential structure including location and driveway. Board continued to next meeting since there were no proposed plans submitted.

Election of Officers for 2003 year:

Slate of officers: Scott Kukshel, chairman: Paul Wainwright, vice chairman: Carole Hall, secretary. Motion made by Paul Wainwright, seconded by Pete McVay to elect slate of officers as proposed in single vote. **Passed Unanimously**

Following dates were noted:

Mon June 9 ATV hearing at Atkinson Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Wed. June 4 site walk of Killam proposed subdivision off West Side Dr.

Thurs. June 19 Plaistow Town Hall combined three town conservation meeting re: ATV's

Thurs. June 26 State DES prime wetland talk Atkinson Town Hall 7:30 p.m.

Mon. July 7 next regularly scheduled Atkinson Conservation meeting 7:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn Peter McVay, seconded by Tim Dziechowski. **Passed Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Hall