

**Atkinson Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday, November 3, 2003**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**Atkinson Town Hall**

1. Call To Order: *1945*  
Attendees: Michelle Veasey, Scott Kukshel, Tim Dziechowski, Pete McVay
2. Guest Business & Plan Reviews  
None
3. Internal Business
  - a. Secretary report: none available. Minutes will be reviewed at the December meeting.
  - b. Treasurer's report: the first payment on the Moose Plate Grant was received. There were no other expenditures or receipts during the month.
4. Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints  
None received. The planning board will review the new subdivision on Lower Maple and Washington Street on Wednesday. The original plan was deferred due to problems with the original plan.
5. Special Projects
  - a. ATVs on Town Lands  
A three-town meeting will be held Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, with Atkinson, Hampstead, and Plaistow. Tim presented a model ordinance from Londonderry. A motion was made and seconded to propose an ordinance banning wheeled motor-driven vehicles unless specifically allowed by deed or conservation easement, excluding town authorized maintenance, public safety, and handicap vehicles from all town, recreation and conservation lands. The Londonderry fine model is proposed: \$100 for first offense, \$250 for second, \$750 for the third and \$1,000 for the fourth. Funds will go toward the cost of enforcement. This will be proposed as a selectman article. The motion passed.  
  
This ordinance proposal will be presented at the tritown meeting also. There was a question concerning the implied exclusion of snowmobiles from the ordinance, since snowmobiles can do more damage on ground with reduced snowfall. It was felt that including snowmobiles in the ordinance might block approval of the entire ordinance, since snowmobilers are a well-organized group and are more responsible.  
  
Town conservation lands need to be posted with the ban information. Signs should be large and heavy and up high to discourage being torn down. An article must be passed at town meeting before signs can be put out, and the budget committee will be asked for increased funding. There are several possible signmakers, and the one in Plaistow will be contacted for cost estimates.
  - b. Town Lands & Trails Brochure Project  
No one from the town showed up at the October workshop presented by Michelle. There is one enthusiastic volunteer who is researching land status in historical and library records. Michelle will send email to other potential members asking their areas of interest.

Pete reported little progress on the trail map production, and hopes to have more time in November to begin earnestly mapping existing trails using the new mapping software.

Michelle, Tim and Pete had examples of trail guides from other towns; Peterborough had the most elaborate, and also the highest cost. Once Atkinson maps and guides are ready for production, cost will be re-examined. Proposed distribution would be a mailing to each family in Atkinson, and posting at all trailheads, and this distribution cost would be taken into account also.

Additional education presentations were discussed, including possible presentations by Phil Auger on the value of open space, Dijit Taylor on planning and budgeting, Matt Tarr, and Peter Moore with SPNHF. Peterborough did a scavenger hunt with a fish & game prize. Aimed toward middle- and lower-school children, the hunt would include looking for homes made by wild animals, trees cut by beavers, two kinds of evergreen cones, largest rock on land, and so on. Peterborough has a mailbox on the trail with a logbook and the results of the hunt. These logs have been quite successful in publicizing the conservation lands and trails. School trips on lands are another possibility.

Due to the cost, the next newsletter will be a web site.

Status report on trail grant funds is due at the end of December.

c. Wetlands Zoning Modifications

The draft of zoning changes was presented by Scott for review by the commission. Nov 8th is the first day to accept petitions to amend the zoning ordinances, and Nov 26th is the last day. The first public hearing will be Dec 3rd, and the second on Jan 7th. The petition for a zoning change can be turned in by Dec 8th, if the Planning Board does not take it under advisement.

Scott passed out zoning change drafts to replace Section 410. The proposed change is considerably expanded, going from two pages to nine pages. Several towns have shifted from designating prime wetlands using state guidelines to having local ordinances, which reduces the requirement for hearings at the state level, which might have a better chance of being passed by voters. The draft was generally accepted by members present, and a motion was made, seconded, and passed to let Scott move forward with proposal. The official vote will be at the December conservation meeting.

d. Conservation Easements

The lot at the end of Knightland Road, lot 18-1, had unknown ownership. Gordon Brown actually owns the lot and pays taxes on it under lot 18-2.

6. Review of Correspondence

Planning Board and Zoning Board minutes and agendas were reviewed.

7. Other Business

Tim walked the Dickey land to review the proposed building, and the land needs more survey and inspection. Plans call for between 16-30 houses, but the wetland boundaries may be restrictive. The submitted plans weren't detailed enough. Builder will be at next Conservation meeting with better plans.

NHACC Annual Meeting report: Pete, Scott attended and reported on their seminars and meetings.

Pete has a number of conservation guides and materials from the state. He will put them in the Atkinson town library for general use.

8. Next meeting date: 1 Dec 2003

9. Adjournment: 10:30.

Respectfully submitted.

Pete McVay