

**Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Monday, January 5, 2004**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**Atkinson Town Hall**

1. Call To Order at 7:30
2. Commission Members present:
  - Scott Kukshtel, chairman
  - Tim Dziechowski
  - Pete McVay
  - Michelle VeaseyGuests present:
  - Kevin Camm
  - Patty Mangini
  - Gary Sherman
3. Guest Business & Plan Reviews
  - a. Kevin Camm: presented a house plan with unattached garage on tax map 2, lot 44, and wanted a 50-foot variance toward a wetland on the edge of the property. In support of the mitigation, he would keep the zone toward the wetland in a natural (“forever wild”) state, with no lawn or other development, as mitigation of the variance. The commission recommended moving the proposed location of the house and garage by 10-15 feet. It was moved and seconded that the Commission write an acceptance letter to the Zoning Board accept the plan with no objections, subject to a site walk and provided that the buffer zone behind the garage is left in a natural state. Motion was seconded and passed.
  - b. Tim did a site walk on the Dickey lands, and had noticed some old roads, not noted on any current map, that might be revivable as walking trails through the proposed development.
  - c. Atkinson Field Committee: Patty Mangini and Gary Sherman presented further options in the search for playing fields (continued from December Conservation Commission meeting). They asked if the LCHIP money could be paid back for proposed lands. They were also given the names of the state road commission environmental division, which is largely responsible for mitigation lands. They had approached Timberlane, who does not have enough field now and will close one this spring for renovation. Could use the Sawyer land, but would require swapping (mitigating) that property. Other possibilities were rental (very expensive) and Plaistow and Haverhill. All of these options had strong drawbacks. Moving the dump or making a new transfer station would free up the present dump site, but there is no place to put it. Letter from Peter Helm for a definition of passive recreation. Because SPNHF and LCHIP are co-guarantors, the chances of them easing the restriction or getting back the money are remote.
4. Internal Business
  - a. Secretary report:
    - i. November minutes were accepted as amended.
    - ii. December minute review was deferred until February.

- b. Treasurer's report: Tim spent \$267.94 for signage and hardware cloth. Tim had ordered 50 each of No ATV/No snowmobile signs for trails. Note: Plaistow will combine with us to add signs also. The budget is the same this year for signs. Pete noted that the Nature Conservancy had some very sturdy signs, and would check on cost. Tim had already done some checks and the signs are expensive.
5. Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints
- a. Lower Maple – Lathrop land project. Scott has received no dredge and fill request yet.
6. Special Projects
- a. ATVs on Town Lands
    - i. Proposed zoning changes: Selectmen will review the ordinance, but the amount of town business at the moment precludes making a warrant for the town meeting. However, the moratorium could be extended for another six months.

A motion was made that the amended ordinance be sent to the Selectmen, worded as “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. Fine are \$100 for first offense, \$250 for second, \$750 for the third and \$1,000 for the fourth, or whatever fee structure the selectmen choose. Funds will go toward the cost of enforcement.” Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Town Lands & Trails Brochure Project
    - i. Grant Status Report: sent out by Michelle. One person has done parcels.
    - ii. Other updates/plans: Michelle talked to Matt Tarr about a family wildlife tracking walk on a town conservation site. Michelle will organize the walk, which will be on a Saturday in February.
  - c. Wetlands Zoning Modifications

Scott attended a hearing for the proposed changes just before Christmas with the Zoning Board. While the amendment had a favorable reception, it was returned for revision, since the length and detail of the amendment was long and complex and contained many areas for discussion. A draft of the amendment is posted for comment on the Atkinson web site. The next public review is due Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January, and notice for warrant must be posted by Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January.
  - d. Conservation Easements: Tim promulgated the state web site (<http://www.nhdeeds.com>) that lists all deeds in Rockingham County.
7. Review of Correspondence
- a. Annual reports are due January 10<sup>th</sup>. Scott will write the Annual report and asked for all ideas to be sent to him.
  - b. Complex Systems Research Center (GRANIT database) sent a map of all parcels for our review and request it be verified by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - c. Planning Board minutes and agenda: no action.

- d. ZBA minutes and agenda: no action
  - e. Land 20/10 is being repossessed by town for non-payment of taxes. Pete will investigate. Stickney also has some land that he would like to donate, at 16 Lakeside Drive (1/3 acre).
  - f. Anonymous email said there are vehicles parking on conservation land on Big Island Pond. Pete will investigate.
8. Other Business: a site walk of the Dickey land to review possible trails was proposed for the upcoming weekend (10-11 January).
9. Next meeting date: February 2<sup>nd</sup>
10. Adjournment: 10:10

Respectfully submitted:

Pete McVay