

ATKINSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

June 6, 2004

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

Guests: Ted Stewart

Scott Kukshel, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm. Quorum present.

Ted Stewart was present to discuss an e-mail from Maureen Harris, Upper Maple Ave., to conservation about a beaver dam on town land. The dam is situated on a stonewall at the edge of roadway between ROW and town conservation land. Ted put forth his suggestions to put in a beaver pipe to lower the water and if that doesn't work, then to trap the beavers and remove them. It was noted that Blunt's Pond has two beaver dams and the Hamilton's, who own the pond, gave permission for trapping. Ted explained how the beaver pipe works. It will be placed through the dam to lower the water level. He may be back next month to give an update.

The commission discussed that drainage swales are not technically wetlands. There were concerns placed about 17 Wood dr. from Barnes, neighbor, about filling backyard with grass/leaf clippings, that it blocked swale and might create wetlands.

Tim Dziechowski reported that he mowed Bonin field and asked Ted about replacing the culvert that accesses the field. Ted said he will replace before July 4.

Ted Stewart left the meeting.

Scott will reply to the Harris e-mail.

Agenda items:

Minutes: Past meeting minutes will be posted to website by Pete McVay.

Action on April 2004 conservation minutes, which were deferred from last month.

Motion to approve by Michelle Veasey, seconded by Pete McVay.

With two abstentions: Carole Hall and Paul Wainwright. **Passed Unanimously**

May 2004 conservation minutes: Motion to approve by Pete McVay, seconded by Michelle Veasey with the following correction: page 2 add number "11" before Pheasant Lane on line 2. With one abstention: Paul Wainwright. **Passed Unanimously**

Treasurer Report: \$265.59 spent for dues and subscription to NHACC. Annual fee.

Dredge and Fill:

Lower Maple, Little River Ln., copied on response letter from NHDES. May 28 dated, response letter from engineer to NHDES addressing suggestion of pre-fabricated box culvert as financially unfeasible. Engineer suggested reduced culvert length, type and size instead, reducing project type from major to minor. NHDES required engineer to respond to conservation commission letter. Steep driveways were changed to one shared driveway. Original project size 6,644 sq ft. was reduced to 4,443 sq. ft. through revised bed and bank alterations reduced from 180 in. ft to 93 in. ft. and 60" concrete pipe culvert changed to 84" corrugated metal pipe.

Commission questions and discussion: what happens when 84" metal pipe rusts, will erosion be prevented on slopes, no pl for road salt run off before down stream property and roadway, de-icing agents, leaching –runoff into stream, siltation of stream during construction, and local representative, such as town engineer to be on site regularly during construction, +/- 10" drop at inlet/outlet of culvert? It was recommended that the comments be passed onto the planning board, so they are addressed during planning phase. Tim D is now sitting on the planning board, so he will pass them on. Also, to send a letter to NHDES in disagreement with whether these changes with major water body downstream and stream linear ft. really lowers project category

Motion by Paul Wainwright, seconded by Michelle Veasey to send letter to NHDES with these comments.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Special Projects:

Local Resource Protection Priority – Tim D said that RPC has lots of maps dealing with resource protection which need updating. Maps not available in Atkinson. Tim passed out an updated town maps and requested members to review to make sure there were no areas of missing town conservation lands.

Town Lands Trails Brochure – Status report due. Pete reported that RPC is backed up until July. That maps may be covered by our dues and the format is usable for trails map brochure. He will get the statement of work cost for electronic multiformat in July. Tim had 2 concerns about the format and layers limiting software to remove/change layers. He suggested ARC view and wants to make sure we can do that.

Wetlands zoning- Scott reported on last meeting and next workshop meeting.

Website status – Pete reported no offering of front-page extensions. Scott suggested account he has available for 3 years which he is willing to share – need cost for domain name. Discussion on what domain name to use. Consensus to check on whether www.Atkinsonconservation.org is available.

Easement monitoring – Pete needs site plan from Tim re – Duston. Monitoring needs to be done on former Trinity property. Michelle Veasey volunteered to do and send in report. Tim has deed and plot plans for area boundary of Plaistow.

Land Conservation Options – Michelle reported she has tried to reach one family to discuss whether they had any interest. She also suggested a speaker if the town was interested. Pete looked at another site where outside issues were resolved so owners are no longer interested in pursuing as donation.

Future – Michelle Veasey printed out information as to outreach for bond – recreation /conservation – as to financial impact and tax revenues from new houses for at least five years. Discussion on land use vs. residential impact to tax costs. How to get statistics and then how to disseminate to townspeople.

Correspondence Items:

- Application to NH Coverts program due June 15 for Sept 8-11 to be at Sergeant Camp;
 - Co-op Extension started Friday afternoon Conservation workshops: June 18- Canterbury; July 16- Epping; and August 13 – Barrington.
- Planning Board Zoning changes letter re-Little River project – previously discussed

ZBA Agenda items /correspondence included: conditional approval letter re- Kukshel; ZBA house expansion Big Isl. Pond w/o permit; request for two sub-standard lots that were combined to be separated so second house could be built, and request denied, now appealed.

Tim submitted police report on vandalism on town conservation land by group known as Atkinson Paintball Society. Neighbors agreed to take signs down and clean up mess.

Other Business: Tim reported that he mowed Sawyer/ Bonin field. There were lots of bushy saplings and that field was almost beyond being able to be mowed. He has not yet mowed Carolyn Orr (former Trinity Camp) field. He will give us a bill for gas and equipment blades.

Next meeting will be Monday July 12 at Town Hall at 7:30 pm. Meeting is being moved to the second week of the month due to July Fourth Holiday.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Dziechowski, seconded by Pete McVay. **UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Hall, secretary