

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
Monday, February 7, 2005
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Scott Kukshel at 7:35

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Scott Kukshel
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Steve Cummings presented request representing Bryant Cheryl Castle, for a 25-foot variance of plot on Industrial Way. Scott gave a synopsis of the request: an addition to be made for a 50' x 80' warehouse 88' from wetlands, with a current 12-foot variance. Steve moved the footprint 75', and now is looking for a 25' variance. The site plan in the town office was done in 1986: town land abuts this site, with fingers of wetlands (500 soils) on the site. Tim moved that the Commission recommend the approval and Carole seconded. Passed unanimously. Carole will send a letter of recommendation to the Zoning Board.

Internal Business

Secretary report: January 2005 minutes are still in draft.

Treasurer's report: The Conservation Land fund has \$752,143.81, and earned \$7,418.25 in interest this year.

Annual Report: Scott prepared the annual report for the town report. A strong plea was made for new members, since there are several vacancies on the Commission and several coming up.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Bittersweet Farm: Fred D'Urso owns the farm on North Broadway. Most of the farm is in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Mr. D'Urso has been clearing second-growth wood and brush from the farm to return it to farmland status, mostly in Massachusetts. Bob Jones, Code Enforcement, and Rob Moore, Conservation Officer, both in Haverhill, filed a complaint with Atkinson. Land was cleared in Massachusetts without valid state orders. However, in New Hampshire, clearing of designated farm land has no such requirement. No issue required action by the Conservation Commission. The owner of the property of the dispute is

Brown's Land Realty Trust & D'Urso Realty Trust
Attn: Fred D'Urso, Trustee
360 Liberty Street
Haverhill, MA 10830

Landry on Bittersweet Road: A variance for building was originally granted in the 1970-80s for a great room. A garage has been added to the north side of the house, near a stream. A variance request is asked for this development. From the plans presented, and from the history of the lot, it is unclear exactly what is to be built and what variance is being requested by the landowner. Scott will write a letter to the landowner requesting clarification.

Special Projects

Trails Brochure Project: A letter was received from the "Moose Plate" project office concerning the progress report submitted. The scope of services to be provided by the Rockingham Planning Commission (produce maps for the brochure) was not part of the original grant application. Pete checked the original grant and concurred: there is no funding for producing the maps, which was to be done "without cost" by volunteers. The grant expires in June 2005.

Discussion followed on production plans, scope of work, and funding. The draft maps are based on older tax maps and topology maps, and do not show current roads and conservation lands. Suggestions were made to add more lands to the map (Marshall, Slade, and Industrial Way Marshall lands). Pete will discuss scope of work and funding with the Rockingham Planning Commission. Michelle will finalize the text for the trail map. Both projects are to be ready for the March Conservation Meeting.

Wetlands Zoning Amendment: Discussion was tabled, since a deliberative session is to be held next Saturday (February 10th).

Other Business

Nature Conservancy: Scott had a conversation with a Conservancy representative about methods for protecting town conservation lands.

LCHIP wants a list of potential projects by February 14th, if the town has any to submit.

Cooperative Extension has a one-day workshop on inventorying wildlife on your own land, February 26th or April 9th.

Nature Walk: Tim suggested a nature walk on our conservation lands, open to the public. Pete pointed out that Atkinson is a major migratory bird flyway in the spring. There was also some discussion that signage and posting is needed on conservation lands. Action on a nature walk was tabled for further discussion.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, March 7th, at 7:30.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay

Based on meeting notes by Carole Hall