

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
Monday, April 4th, 2005 at 7:30
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Scott Kukshel at 7:40.

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Carole Hall
Scott Kukshel
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey
Paul Wainwright

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

None.

Internal Business

Secretary report: Secretary reports for January, February, and March are still in draft format.

Treasurer's report: One appropriation to pay dues to NHACC was approved at the March 14th meeting. Four copies of the NHACC handbook were purchased for \$68.00. Pete noted that he placed all books on conservation that he was holding (information from state meetings and special mailings, plus tax maps) in the library in a special reference section for Town Conservation.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Thomas Duston, Deer Run, Tap Map 16-1: request for a variance by Austin Realty Trust to remove the cul-de-sac for road grading and building. The lot is 18 acres and 50% is wet (hydric B and hydric A). It abuts the Marshall property. One lot is four acres and is almost all buildable, but with a 700-foot driveway. Discussion by conservation members was a consensus that the Commission would be amenable to lessening without setback if the proposed cul-de-sac was pulled back closer to the existing cul-de-sac. Action was tabled pending a site walk. Tim and Michelle will do a site walk.

Michael Chambers, 43 Main Street: has a minimum impact expedited variance request for a driveway. This was deferred from early February because of snow. The driveway would provide access to a back lot that will be divided into two for building. Action was tabled pending a site walk by Tim and another Commission member before the next Conservation Commission meeting in May.

Woodlock Recreation Area Trails Site Walk: several Commission members walked this trail, based on notification by a resident of trash and residue on the trail. The trash and four-wheel drive damage in the area had the appearance of someone setting up a paintball field. Pictures were taken and Conservation members will go to the regular Selectmen's meeting to present the results and request letters be sent to the abutters and the trash be removed. Scott will write the letter, and Pete will print large-scale photos for presentation. Tim and Pete will attend the meeting.

Special Projects

Wetlands Amendment: There was a discussion of the amendment at the Planning Board which was read into the minutes. Mr. DiMaggio was surprised at the election results and hoped that the article would not have as many pages on the ballot next year. There was much incorrect information concerning the nature of the amendment on the days before election, and the Board would like to educate residents before next year's ballot.

There was discussion about forming a special group in support of conservation efforts but independent of the Conservation Commission. Michelle suggested the name "Friends of Conservation".

SPNHF: Our membership dues of \$50.00 is due for this year. Pete moved that we renew our membership in SPNHF for \$50.00. Tim seconded the motion. Passed unanimously. The funds will be taken from the Dues and Fees budget line item.

Map and Trails Project: Loral Printer gave a bid of \$1,135.00 to print and mail the maps to the town. 4,000 copies would be printed and 3,300 would be mailed. The remaining 700 would be kept in the town offices. Scott had filed for the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) grant for matching funds. Of the total \$1,125.00 for the map production, the Conservation Commission would provide \$562.00 from Professional Services budget line item and the other half would come from the RPC grant. Also trail notes need to be completed and the trails need to be walked with GPS to confirm the correct coordinates. RPC will produce electronic versions of maps in layers, with major and minor road division. Michelle and Pete will be the final editors of design, layout, and content.

Conservation Website: nothing to report. The web site is up and running. Scott is maintaining it in FrontPage.

Conservation Easements / Land Purchases

Jane Jones Lot: Tim checked the deeds. It was originally ten acres and was sold to Settler's Ridge. No mention was made of conservation easements in the deed. Carole will call Steve to get details for further investigation of easement or land purchase by the Conservation Commission. The lot separates the Slade parcel from the pond and could be a good addition to conservation lands. Tim will also discuss this with the Planning Board.

Scenic Road Designation: Michelle discussed plans and procedures with Marjory Swope, who suggested both state and local level designation, by placing this in a town warrant article.

Bittersweet Farm: no update or new information on the issues surrounding land clearance in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Most of the issue is on the Massachusetts side of the farm.

Other Business

New members: Pete has one person who might be interested in a position on the Commission. He will follow up on contact.

Library Inquiry: Scott received a letter from the Chairperson of the Library Trustees concerning a wet area behind the Kimball Library. They want to be sure it isn't a wetland that might interfere with expansion plans. Tim will do a site walk and report.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, May 2nd, at 7:30.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay
Based on meeting notes by Carole Hall