

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
Monday, May 2, 2005 at 7:30
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Scott Kukshel at 7:45

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Scott Kukshel
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey
Paul Wainwright

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Mark and Marianne Bonaiuto attended briefly to thank the commission for their support and advice in the building at Hemlock Heights road.

David Treat, Chairman of the Hampstead Conservation Commission presented Hampstead's ongoing work with trail maps and land surveys. With a grant from the Rockingham Planning Commission, they were able to map town trails using RPC GPS equipment and also produce maps using the RPC databases and techniques. David also offered advice on trail planning, resources, and results, including a very large map of town trails and lands. He is investigating special waterproof and tearproof paper used for maps. Also mentioned was the new wildlife habitat maps produced by the UNH Cooperative Forestry division, available online and through the extension service.

Paul Busby of Busby Construction presented tentative plans for a new staging and maintenance facility, located on tax map 20, lot 35-1 (between the cell tower and fire pond with access on Route 111). Tim, Michelle and Paul did a site walk prior to the meeting. Examination of the plans showed concerns that runoff would be directed downslope into the fire pond to the west. Abatement included state-required holding tanks for any fuels and oils, a swale on the west side of the development, and no grinding or large maintenance will be done at the site. Paul responded to a question about why available plots on Industrial Way were not considered as (1) Industrial Way property was not for sale, only rent, and (2) road access in the industrial area would be difficult for large equipment. Paul W. pointed out that if the Wetland Ordinance had passed, there would be no need for Paul B. to apply for a wetland setback, but since the town is operating under the old rules, he will need a variance. Tim made a motion made to write a letter to the Zoning Board recommending the variance, provided runoff issues were addressed. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously, and Tim will write the letter.

Internal Business

Secretary report: No minutes were presented for review.

Treasurer's report:

\$562.50 for other professional services: mapping contract with Rockingham Planning Commission.

\$267.00 annual dues to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions.

\$68.00 for education and conferences, purchase of new Conservation Handbooks. Scott will bring the new books to the next meeting. Tim mentioned seeing a handbook with soil identification keys, and will check with Cooperative Extension for details.

New member recruitment. Pete was given the name of a potential commission member, and will initiate contact. Michelle had been in touch with a volunteer who would like to do trail blazing for the town.

Election of Officers for 2005-2006:

Before nomination and election, the commission members discussed a non-binding and informal policy of limiting the chairman position to two terms (two years) and the vice-chairman would be elected to chairman at the end of that time.

Nominations and elections for positions were held as follows:

Chairman: Tim Dziechowski: elected unanimously with one abstention.

Vice-Chairman: Paul Wainwright: elected unanimously with one abstention.

Secretary: Pete McVay, elected unanimously with one abstention.

As part of the transition, conservation records will be moved to file cabinet storage in the Town Hall. The new officers will meet to collect, sort, and file the records and documents.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Pope Road Trail Trash Removal. Pete presented the findings of a site walk to the April 18th Board of Selectmen meeting. Pete presented photos and a trail map taken on the site walk, pinpointing the location of the dumped materials. It appears that the trash was not random, but was an attempt to set up a paintball arena. Of particular concern was its proximity to Meeting Rock, which would be a target for paint and graffiti. Pete asked the selectmen to send a letter to the abutters, advising them of the illegal dumping activities and asking them to report any irregularities noted on the lands. In addition, Ted Stewart will be asked to remove the materials, since it will require hauling equipment.

Special Projects

Town Lands & Trails Brochure Project. Michelle and Pete reported on project status. The town portion of the RPC grant has been paid (see treasurer report above), and the RPC should be working on producing the maps. Michelle will contact David Wycliffe of the RPC for a status report, since our state grant funds must be expended by June.

Conservation Land Deed / Designation Issues:

Tim noted that the deeds of several parcels of town land have ambiguous wording, and it is not clear what town government division has control of the land and use management. The commission will embark on a project to investigate the status of all open space to clear up ambiguities and incomplete records.

Conservation Easements / Land Purchases

Zoning Board Agenda items: Several items were on the ZBA agenda. On all items, the applicants did not call or appear before the Commission. In the absence of any plans or documentation on the requests, the Commission cannot comment and will abide by the Zoning Board rulings. However, the commission members would like to respectfully remind the Zoning Board that the voters wanted a 100' setback.

Thomas Hodgson – Coventry Rd. Map 14 Lot 84-3

Hernandez – Bluebird Lane Map 7 Lot 16

Gagnon – Industrial Way Map 16 Lot 50 (30' variance. No plan)

Tim noted that Ted Stewart informed him that an excellent example of silt control is at the project at 33 Maple Ave.

Tim noted that the trail access behind the Dickey property development has been clear-cut, and all trees removed up to the property lines on either side. This is the access to the Sawmill Swamp area.

Tim said that the Planning Board approved development of three lots at the end of Deer Run (tax map lot 16-1), the developer agreed to grant the town a conservation trail easement to the Marshall land.

Tim and Michelle did a site walk behind the library to assess the depression area and presented photos and a report. Based on the survey, they do not feel that this area is a wetland and does not require special protection. Tim has sent a letter on this to Elaine Woodbury of the library commission. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

Other Business

Pete met with the Rockingham Planning Commission executive director (Cliff Sinnott), who informed him of the Rockingham Regional Planning Commission which meets monthly. There are two commissioners from Atkinson, but one post is vacant. Information on the RPC Commission is on the RPC web page.

Atkinson has bought space on a commercial internet survey site for conducting polls and surveys. This space may be available for use by the Conservation Commission for surveys.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, June 6th, at 7:30.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay

May 2, 2005

Elaine Woodbury, Chair
Kimball Library Trustees
3 Academy Avenue
Atkinson, NH 03811

Re: Dug hole behind library parking lot

Dear Elaine,

I looked at this hole along with fellow Conservation Commission member Michelle Veasey. The hole contains a drainage ditch about 85 feet long which starts at the front of the hole and exits through a pipe at the rear of the ditch. This pipe passes through an embankment at the rear of the lot and drains into a brook.

I asked several Fire Department members if they knew the history of this feature. They said that the ditch was dug some years ago to drain ice and snow melt away from the rear of the old fire station.

The ditch has no inlet other than drainage into the basin in which it sits. There is no evidence of wetlands vegetation or soil types in this basin. The Conservation Commission does not consider it a jurisdictional wetland and sees no problem with filling in this manmade hole.

Sincerely,
Tim Dziechowski

Vice Chairman
Atkinson Conservation Commission