

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
Monday, July 11, 2005
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:58.

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Scott Kukshel
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey
Paul Wainwright

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Mike Saviano - 33 Boulder Cove Road, Lot 20-12: This was an update of a package presented by Mr. Saviano last July, requesting permission to reconstruct an existing nonconforming house. Tim presented Mr. Saviano's plans. Plans involve adding a deck to the existing house, reducing house's shoreline footprint from 66 to 58 feet, and to extend the back of the house four feet to close in a space to a bulkhead. He has requested a variance for the distance to the shoreline. He will be planting a permanent vegetative buffer between the house and the shore. The ZBA is waiting for a recommendation from the Conservation Commission. Scott moved to send a recommendation of approval to the ZBA. Motion seconded and was unanimously approved.

Atkins/Bishop - 83 East Road Lot 19-10, Addition: Tim and Michelle walked the land. When Atkins/Bishop originally applied for the variance, the wetland scientist noted a drainage swale along the south side of the property line between 19-10 and 19-7. They are asking for a variance to the drainage swale of 49 feet, to put in an accessory family unit. This drainage swale may be part of Sawmill Swamp, but was probably originally created by a culvert to the property. Michelle moved to accept the addition as proposed. Motion second and passed unanimously.

Gilles Gagnon - Industrial Way, Lot 16-50 – Building: The lot is across from the right of way into the Marshall land. He wants a 30-foot variance to place a building for rental to undetermined businesses. Tim and Michelle did a site walk, and photos presented of the site showed considerable clearing of brush in the buffer zone around the property. Given the condition of the land, issues about brush clearing, and possible infringement on wetlands, the request tabled until the August conservation commission meeting.

Chris Mastriano - 5 Twin Oaks Drive, Lot 6-71 – Addition: requested information on wetlands issues involving a garage addition with extended family living area over. This was tabled until August meeting for lack of information.

Internal Business

Secretary report: Minutes from the past two years (2003 and forward) were reviewed. Minutes for the following are missing: October 2003, Sep-Nov 2004. The July 2004 minutes are incomplete. Pete will investigate the "Parliamentary rules" for dealing with unapproved and missing/incomplete minutes.

Other minutes approved as amended: Jan 2005 (approved, one abstain), Feb 2005 (approve, one abstain), Mar 2005 (approved unanimously), March 2005 Special (approved, one abstain), April 2005 (approved unanimously), May 2005 (approved, since further corrections were discovered) and June 2005, approved unanimously.

Tim noted that according to RSA 91-A, minutes must be submitted within 144 hours of the meeting. Pete will submit minutes by Friday via email to the Town Administrator, stamped "draft" for temporary printing in the Town records. Once approved, the final minutes will be sent by email to the Town Administrator for inclusion in their records. Only final, approved minutes will be posted on the web site.

Michelle commented that a lot of paper was used to make the minutes. Under discussion, the commission members agreed that (1) since minutes are emailed, each member is responsible for their own copies, and (2) the chair will bring copies of the agenda as needed.

Treasurer's report: Report is the same as last month, which means the expense for the trail printing had not appeared when it was printed. The printing bill was for \$1563.14, which included postage. Trail map mailboxes were approximately \$430, with some credit due for unused supplies. Tim said that the Town Administrator (Russ) said that the funding for the map project, even though it was a grant, had to be approved by the town. The April 2003 minutes showed that we had submitted for approval of grant monies by the Selectmen. Review of the RSA showed that the Commission should probably have submitted to include the grant money in the annual budget. However, the grant was approved by the Selectmen. Scott gave the financial books to Tim. In a separate issue, Tim noted that a CD is maturing, and Scott said it should be forwarded to the town treasurer for management.

New members: Michelle reported that one candidate for membership will consider joining, but next year. Tim had another candidate but needed to know if this person is a town resident or just a vacation renter. Pete has another candidate and has been trying to contact him.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Chase Island Road - unpermitted dredge & fill: There is a construction site and an abutter complained that runoff is being diverted into Big Island Pond. Pete or Michelle will do a site walk.

Brooks Properties - 130 Route 111 - Lot 21-4 - unpermitted operations: This section is on the border with the town of Hampstead. Apparently proper dredge and fill permits were never filed. There are enough irregularities here that the Commission will investigate. Tim and Pete will investigate if the proper paperwork was filed, and for what purpose.

Stickney Road Canoe Launch - ramp repair: The float was originally put in by the Lions' club, and is missing a float. Tim will investigate doing repairs. Michelle pointed out that the ramp and launch area is hard to see, and will have a sign made to indicate it. There is also a motorhome illegally parked on one end of the parking area.

McPherson lot - unauthorized horse trails: Tim and Michelle will do a site walk and investigate these reports.

Special Projects

SPNHF sent mail to Scott about our membership. Michelle showed that the commission had voted to continue membership in our April 2005 meeting.

Town Lands & Trails Brochure Project

Moose Plate Grant Contract Status: Michelle has the electronic copies and all the reports, except for the signed RPC contract. Michelle will set up and deliver the complete package required by the Moose Plate grant.

Trail Map Mailboxes: Michelle put four of the seven boxes. Other trails will be marked by Pete so that Michelle can finish the placement. The Sawmill Swamp entrance was not placed because the emergency fire road will come through the area, and the exact location is not known yet. Michelle will place the box in a temporary area.

Trailblazing standards: Tim had showed the catalogues of available signs. It was informally decided to use high-contrast paint and possibly stencil to mark the trails. It was moved that Michelle be designated as the Chairman for Trailblazing.

Conservation Web Site Status: the web site is up and running. Tim and Pete will be given access by Scott for updates.

Forester: Tim has been reviewing the need for a town forester, and is looking at several candidates. A forester is needed for selective cutting and maintenance of town lands.

Conservation Easements / Land Purchases

Land easement: Paul was contacted about a conservation easement of approximately four acres. The owners would like an easement so that the lot would be kept intact, but would like written assurance that the town would accept an easement before going through the time and expense of preparing the necessary paperwork. Discussion of names and parcel details was done in closed session to protect the privacy of the easement grantors. Tim reported that Russ will ask the town about the issue. Michelle will call Rockingham Land Trust to find out what is required for them to hold a conservation easement. Tim will also discuss the issue with the Selectmen. Paul made a motion to accept the donation of a conservation easement from easement grantors under RSA 36-a:4, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Motion seconded. Passed unanimously. Paul will write a letter to the grantors and include an approval from the Selectmen to accept this easement.

Jane Jones Lot – Appraisal: six week lead time, and Tim got some estimates of cost. It was recommended that it be appraised as a single house estate. The owner would have to bear the appraisal cost.

Currier Lot: no action.

Sawmill Swamp: Tim is discussing easement and/or purchase to complete access to the Swamp.

Other Business

Gates at Sawyer Ave Land: The gates have been installed, but there is no lock on the gates yet.

Summer Mowing Schedule: it has been too rainy to do mowing. Tim hopes to try again this week.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, August 1st, at 7:30.

The meeting adjourned at 11:26.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay, Secretary