

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
Monday, October 3, 2005
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:35.

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Dan Kimball
Scott Kukshel
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey
Paul Wainwright

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Jim Lavelle for Carpenter lot 17-30: a lot line adjustment, of the Houde lot from 8.85 acres to 8.02 acres, leaving lot 17-30 at less than two acres of uplands. Scott made a motion to write a letter to the ZBA, that the Conservation Commission has no objection to the plan as presented and there is no degradation of wetlands. The motion was seconded and passed.

Rita Betournay for lot 17-2: A buyer just made an offer on the land, so the exact nature of a proposed conservation gift or easement has to be worked out. The buyer is aware of the conservation issues and is amenable to gift or easement agreements.

Chris Mastriano for lot 6-71: is seeking a wetlands variance of 17 feet. Tim, Scott, and Michelle walked the land. Since the walk, Chris has changed plans and filing with the ZBA and is looking for a larger variance. From the walk, there was no reason to either approve or deny a variance based solely on the wetlands.

(Note: neither the Betournays nor Mastrianos were present nor did they have representatives at this session.)

Internal Business

Secretary report: The September 6th minutes were read and approved as amended. The September 19th workshop minutes were read and approved as amended.

Treasurer's report: The budget process for next year has started. After the mowing, we will have \$375.00 left in the total budget for the year. The refund on the conservation mailboxes has not shown up in the budget and may have simply been incorrectly allocated. Tim noted that some small bills have to be paid, but we should be able to make the rest of the year. Discussion was done on the Moose Plate grant money. If it is included in this year's accounting, then it would be placed in the general town fund. By deferring the Moose Plate grant money to next year's budget, it would go to the conservation fund. Scott presented the annual invoice (\$267.00) for the NH Assoc of Conservation Commissions, which is due next March.

Carole Hall resignation: Carole's letter was presented to the commission. She has served a total of 23 years on the Commission. Pete moved that we make Carole an honorary lifetime nonvoting member of the commission. Motion was seconded. Tim will approach the Selectmen with a proposal and consider a plaque. Scott pointed out that the last time this happened, the town report was dedicated to Chet Ladd, who had served for 22 years. Motion passed unanimously.

Elaine Woodbury: No-hunting signs have disappeared from Sawyer Avenue. Tim will look into replacement signs from NH Fish & Game. Pete volunteered to put the signs up. Michelle will investigate getting signs with the NH Fish & Game.

LCHIP notice to remind us of the land monitor requirement. Michelle volunteered to do the monitor report.

SPNHF easement monitoring off Boulder Cove Road is due. Pete will complete the survey, once the forms are available. Tim will check to see if the forms are in received correspondence.

Conservation Web Site Status: still running. Pete did some updates, but the member status needs to be changed.

New Member Recruitment

Dan Kimball was introduced at the Selectmen's meeting (held concurrently). The Selectmen voted to approve his appointment to the Commission and he was officially welcomed.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Brooks Properties - Route 111 Lot 21-4: DES file 2005-01993 was assigned and the state sent a voluntary cease-and-desist. There has been no activity at the site.

McPherson lot: will wait for leaves to fall before surveying the property for horse trails.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board minutes and agenda: no action required.

ZBA minutes and agenda: no action required.

Other Business

Mowing Schedule: one last mowing in about two weeks.

Trailhead parking safety issues - parking improvements: there is a provision in the road regulations for two classes of town trails. The only difference in the two classes is the rights of abutters for access. The road agent can do maintenance if it is a town trail. More study is needed on parking and trail issues, and the matter was deferred to the next workshop session.

Special Projects

Scout trail project, Sawmill Swamp: no action yet. Lands will not be surveyed until the mosquito problem abates, after the first frost.

2006 Grants: There was a meeting of the I93 abatement group (CTAP) in Windham on September 28th, attended by Tim and Pete and Russ McAllister (town administrator). CTAP is composed of the 26 towns impacted by the I-93 widening project, and was set up for local governments to manage mitigation efforts. \$3.5 million is available for mitigation (not to include land purchase) over a five-year period. There is also an additional \$5 million from a separate fund for mitigation actions. Tim will see if the Planning Board has any actions pending on this organization.

Michelle checked the water assistance grant posting, and it appeared to be more for water quality. It is more under Ted Stewart, and Michelle will check with Ted for further action. There are other grant postings that might be more related to conservation issues directly.

Conservation Land Deed / Designation Issues

Forester - forestry plan update - workshop meeting. Scott has all the materials for Phil Wilson and also the original forest management plan.

The remaining business was deferred to a workshop meeting.

Private Session: Conservation Easements / Land Purchases

Commission went into private session under RSA 91-A3d to discuss land and possible gift lands. It was moved and seconded to go into private session, Passed unanimously.

Private session was closed at 10:09 by motion that passed unanimously. The Chairman noted that no business was transacted in the private session.

Paul moved that Tim be given authorization from the Commission to offer to purchase the Jane Jones lot for ½ of its appraised value, subject to approval by the Selectmen and a public hearing.

Michelle moved that Tim be authorized by the Commission to offer to purchase the Marilyn Matte land at the appraised or assessed value, whichever is the greater. Seconded and passed unanimously.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:14.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay