

Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission November 21, 2005 Atkinson Town Hall

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:22. No quorum present.

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Scott Kukshel
Pete McVay

Internal Business

Secretary report: review and approval of minutes, deferred to 5th December.

Treasurer's report: The 2006 conservation budget was discussed. Tim attended the selectmen's meeting with a proposal for a level-fund budget, but with a funding increase to come from grants and other funding sources. The Commission members present discussed other projects that might require funding and should go to the Selectmen, including an updated Natural Resource Inventory, Forestry Plan, Master Plan, and funding for trail improvement and maintenance. The Commission also would like to obtain a surveying measurement wheel for land surveys and trail development.

Other: Tim spoke to Sumner Kalman about policies and procedures of the Commission:

- a) Quorum: the town articles specify four members of the Commission constitute a quorum. To change this to a simple majority would require a warrant article.
- b) Business can be conducted at any meeting (such as a workshop), if it is an open meeting and notice is given.
- c) Bills for legal expenses involved with conservation land acquisition will be treated separately and can be covered under conservation commission funds.
- d) The approved warrant article of 2001 which clarified the legitimate uses for the Land Use Change Tax which had been deposited into the Conservation Fund refers to RSA 36-A, so conservation funds can be used for any purpose specified in RSA 36-A.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Cathy Burke of Pope Road and West Side Drive has petitioned to extend a horse paddock to provide room for a second horse. Action was deferred pending a site walk by the Commission.

Several issues around the **McPherson lot** were discussed. Tim had did a partial walk of the conservation land and did not see any evidence of horse trails or other unauthorized use, but it needs a full site walk. There are also some questions about the petition for a wetland crossing for an abutter (Mike Chambers) to the south of the conservation land, which should be addressed by another site walk. Tim reviewed easements for the McPherson lot and discovered that the abutter to the north does not have the right to extend parking into the McPherson lot as was originally thought.

Special Projects

The forestry plan is under review by Dan Kimball. Charlie Moreno had given an initial quote of approximately \$2,000-\$3,000 to do four or five parcels. The suggestion had been given to do a few sections at a time, rather than all at once.

Discussion on the parking lot buffer warrant article was deferred, since it seems to be covered adequately in the draft wetlands amendment.

Rules for conservation lands / town forests were deferred to the next workshop meeting.

Scott has made an extensive revision of the wetlands ordinance from last year's proposal. Suggestions were made on adding, changing units, including references to DRED publications. Scott will continue to work on the draft before submission to the Commission. The commission is planning to present this as a petitioned warrant article for this year's annual town meeting.

Conservation Easements / Land Purchases

Several proposed easements and purchases were discussed in private session. No action was taken because of a lack of quorum.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items: no action

Zoning Board Agenda items: no action

Other Business

Tim is working on a "current practice" legal document that will stand up to current needs and can be used as a boilerplate, saving the donor and commission considerable legal cost.

The scenic byways project was discussed. End-to-end photographs of the proposed scenic road would be needed to document and support the project. Pete said that other towns along 121 have expressed interest in extending the byway (Hampstead, Chester, Auburn, and Candia). Pete volunteered to contact Commissions in these towns concerning the project.

Tim will put together a preliminary proposal package. The Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) did a survey of the old houses in the town about 20 years ago, and the photographs are in a book in the Historical Society. This would be a good reference for the project.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, December 5th, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay