

Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission December 5, 2005 Atkinson Town Hall

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:15.

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Dan Kimball
Scott Kukshel
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Scenic Byway Project: Tim presented an 1892 map from the Atkinson Historical Society that shows 30-40 houses on Main Street. There is also a survey of historical houses done in 1978 by the Rockingham Planning Commission, and a copy is in the library. Plans are being made to photograph these historical houses, particularly during the holiday season, for inclusion in the proposal for a border-to-border designation of Route 121 as a scenic byway.

Chambers Lot (“Llama lot”) Subdivision plans: presented to planning board. This lot has only 192 feet of frontage on Route 121, and is filing for a special exemption for hardship. The state approved the dredge and fill in November.

Page Lane Subdivision Plan: new proposal was shown by Tim for Lot 13-15. It is an odd shape and size with considerable wetlands. This has not gone to the Planning Board yet, and the Commission may need to do a site walk to see the actual condition of the lot.

Internal Business

Secretary report:

The **November 7, 2005** minutes were amended. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. Passed unanimously. No vote was taken on the November 21 minutes, since no quorum was present.

Generic Easement: SPNHF has a generic easement template. Tim reviewed it, and it is 16-17 pages long. We might want to use a subset.

SPNHF easement monitoring – Mary Lou Williams: SPNHF has this as an 11-acre parcel, but it has not been properly located or surveyed. Tim reviewed the easement file and it is the section just south of Hemlock Heights before the first house. There is a town boundary marker west of the stone wall on the Marshall land. Pete will make a site walk looking for the town markers.

Conservation Web Site Status: Scott posted part of the Wetlands Ordinance explanatory material, and Pete updated the dates and minutes.

Treasurer’s report:

Final 2005 bills: Michelle put in a bill for \$39.00 for tree marking paint. The 2005 budget will have \$410 left at the end of the current fiscal year. Tim proposed paying the NHACC dues from the remainder. Pete moved to use the remaining operations budget fund, pay the paint bill, the NHACC dues, and purchase a measuring wheel, and/or office supplies needed by the commission. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2006 budget: Tim presented the 2006 budget to the Selectmen. He added more to the printing for updating and reprinting the town maps. Dues stayed constant. Supplies went up because of color printing for proposals. Postage went up for town-wide mailings. The mowing budget was based on this year's results: two mowings seem to be adequate, with a half-mow leaving perimeter habitat, and clear ground at the end of the year. There was some discussion about improving the trails and lands in Sawyer, and new equipment for improvements to gating, trails, and boundaries. The Moose Plate grant was dropped as an offset, which means the Moose Plate grant would still go into the general fund.

Legal bills for consultation with Sumner Kalman: Selectmen have complained that many lawsuits are straining the town budget. Since the Conservation Commission has used some three hours of consulting time. Sumner will break out the conservation consulting from other funds. Scott made a motion to authorize any legal consulting bills that may arrive. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Horse paddock near wetlands Pope & West Side Drive: no action. Commission needs to walk the site.

Brooks properties: route 111 Lot 21-4 – DES File 2005-01993. A walk will be scheduled with state enforcement officers.

McPherson Lot: unauthorized horse trails. The abutter to this land does not have permission to park his cars on the McPherson land, after review of the easement by Tim. Jim Kirsch talked to the abutter and cars have been removed. We have the right to park in that area to review the wetlands and lands.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items: no action.

Zoning Board Agenda items: no action.

Other Business

Trail Map Reprint: Tim is still waiting for a quote from Loral Printing for reprint costs.

Tax maps from surrounding towns: Tim has been investigating the costs for abutting towns and has varying prices. Pete will investigate getting the latest maps from Terra Map and possibly getting printing done.

Special Projects

Forestry plan update: Tim presented an update to the survey of the Sawyer lands done by our last consulting forester. A surveyor could go in, in the spring and mark the right of way on Sawyer Road, to keep the Conservation Easement on the right of way. We also need to update the land markers on all lands. Pete will scan all these documents for electronic filing. Dan may have all the files electronically now, and will go through and edit and revise. Dan said that priorities should be on a lot-by-lot basis, with the forester acting as our agent. Discussion went back and forth on the need to move quickly to keep the forest and abutters from taking over, vs. not damaging an important habitat and conservation land by inadequate planning.

Wetlands Ordinance: Scott has completed the Wetlands Ordinance petition and passed out copies to those present. After review, a motion made that we propose the ordinance as drafted by Scott. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Commission members will take the petitions to townspeople to gather sufficient signatures to have it placed by referendum.

Rules for conservation lands/town forests: workshop meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, December 19th, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay