

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
February 6, 2006
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:11.

Attending:

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

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Betournay easement was approved and signed off by the Selectmen. Tim will record the deed.

Land Stewardship Guests: Mark Cerniglia and Barry van Ry attended the meeting to discuss land stewardship roles. Mark was interested in being the land steward for the Slade forest land, and Barry was interested in the McPherson lands that surround his home. There was discussion of the duties, responsibilities, and authority of land stewards as posted on the Commission web site, and the current and future status of the lands. The Slade lands are bordered by the "Jane Jones" lot which is of interest to the Commission, but there are many complex legal and vested interests in the land that are slowing any purchase process. The McPherson lands border conservation lands in Haverhill, and there could be a potential partnership with the Haverhill conservation commission on trail maintenance and improvement. Tim has contacted the Haverhill commission and invited Barry to participate in any meeting.

Both Mr. Cerniglia and Mr. van Ry will be included on the email distribution lists for Commission correspondence (emails received and posting of minutes).

As part of the discussion on trail maintenance, it was noted that trail blazing and marking is needed on many properties. Michelle will blaze the Crown Hill trails, and Dennis Krause has volunteered to blaze the Sawyer trails.

Scenic Byway project: Carole Grant is spearheading the scenic byway project for Route 121 (Main Street), photographing historic homes along the route and getting the necessary clearances. Pete will be talking to the conservation commissions in neighboring towns (Hampstead, Chester, and Candia) to see about extending the scenic byway north. Pete had contacted the Hampstead Conservation chairman, who expressed an interest in joining in this endeavor.

Internal Business

Secretary report: Motion was made to approve the regular and sealed minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously. It was recommended that only one set of minutes will be done from now on, with the "sealed" portion (if any) assembled as a separate document.

SPHNF easement monitoring and Mary Lou Williams: nothing to report on SPHNF easement monitoring. Tim had discussed the discrepancy of 150' between Hampstead and Atkinson on the "Mary Lou Williams" lot on Boulder Cove Road. These boundary discrepancies are not unusual. Tim will contact the current owners of the Mary Lou Williams land and the town of Hampstead and arrange for a boundary walk. Pete volunteered to participate.

Web site: The revised wetlands ordinance was posted on the web site.

Treasurer's Report: Final 2006 budget was set at town meeting. No legal bills have been forthcoming.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Horse paddock on Pope road: no action. Tim will contact the owner again to arrange a site walk. Michelle and Dan volunteered to go also.

Brooks properties: no action from the state.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items: Master Plan Update: some work is being done by the Planning Board, and Tim mentioned that more input is needed from other citizens and groups, such as the Recreation Commission.

Zoning Board Agenda items: no action.

Other Business

Sawyer gates are open for the winter to allow regular and emergency access if needed.

Hunter complaints: One resident called Tim and complained about hunting on town lands, and was opposed to any hunting, including bow hunting. Tim will check with fish and game about bow hunting incidents in the state to see what the official statistics are on accidents with this sport.

Survey markers on problem boundaries: Tim received a bid from LaValle Surveying for boundary marking, and received two bids: \$850 (McPherson) and \$1,170 (Tax Map 3-107). Pete raised the issue that perhaps the canoe launch landing should be properly surveyed also. Tim said that the canoe launch boundaries are well known and only have to be confirmed, and any encroachment can then be reported for action. Scott suggested a chain link fence to mark the perimeter. Pete will do another site inspection to find the boundaries.

Check status of boundaries with Sumner before expending funds: Tim wants to make sure that some boundaries (Industrial way) are not part of the private land or are truly access points.

Conservation Easements

Jane Jones lot: the actual status of this lot is not clear, and there are possible additional title restrictions and multiple vested interests in the lot. Any action or possible purchase movements are deferred until multiple potential claims of ownership and/or easement can be resolved.

Sawmill Swamp possibilities are still under investigation.

Currier lot possibility was removed from consideration since the land has been sold.

LCHIP grant purchases, Williams match, and CTAP grants are all being investigated by the Town Administrator. Pete will contact the Rockingham Planning Commission to see if there is any clarification of the CTAP mitigation and planning funds.

Special Projects

Forestry: Tim said the Town Administrator had software that would generate a forestry plan. Dan is reviewing the old forestry plan asked what the deliverable would be. After discussion, it was informally decided that Dan will present the final text in word, and scanning and format of the included maps will be done separately. Pete will investigate the scanning possibilities for the maps to produce a complete electronic document of both word and graphics. Tim recommended contacting Charlie Moreno, giving him the electronic copy of the old plan and also to ask what software he might be using for forestry management.

Wetlands Ordinance: Free publicity options were discussed by the Commission. Members volunteered to write and send letters to the editor(s) of the Eagle Tribune and The Carriage Towne news explaining the reasons for the proposed Wetlands Ordinance. In addition, there will be a session discussing the ordinance on the town cable channel, and a press release is being reviewed by Scott, to be sent to local newspapers.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, March 6th, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay