

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
Monday, June 5, 2006
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:20.

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Scott Kukshtel
Denise Legault
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey
Paul Wainwright

Guests:

Patti Mangini
Kristin Leathers
Michael Provencher
Denise Jackson
Del Dooling
Joan Fettis

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Busby land and trail update. Tim reported that the Busby land purchase was completed on Friday, June 2nd. The actual land use is very open at the moment, and will depend upon discussion and negotiation between different interest groups and the voters.

Discussion ensued concerning trails and a labyrinth on the land. **Patti Mangini** of the town recreation commission asked if Dorothy Erwin, labyrinth designer, might walk the land and assess the possibility of a labyrinth. Michelle and Denise volunteered to meet with Dorothy on Thursday, June 29th, for a land survey. Patti also requested to be kept informed of updates to the land status, since the recreation committee plans and potential warrants will have to match the Busby land plans. Tim showed the map of the land and there was some discussion of areas for the labyrinth, which is near the bridge and uplands crossing. As recreation, if the town is able to swap the land, the seniors from Bryant Woods would like to see it stay open space, with lacrosse and hockey fields and walking paths. There is a barn on the property that might also be used. Commission will tentatively walk on Thursday, June 29th, at 6:00. Discussion of warrant articles, land use or swap, and development costs were deferred for future meetings.

Kristin Leathers and Michael Provencher, Island Pond Complaint. As noted in the May minutes, a complaint on dredge and fill without permit has been filed with the state. Kristin and Michael said that they had inquired about the land status at Town Hall when they were considering buying the land and were told that all of the land was usable. Kristin could not remember who told her this. They further stated that their intent was to beautify the property and had no idea it was wetlands; otherwise, they would not have purchased the land. Kristin asked where it was recorded that this is wetlands, and what part. Tim and Scott said it was by inspection of the land. Tim pointed out that a complaint has been filed with the state, and they must settle with the state. The complaint has been assigned to Eben Lewis, enforcement officer for Southern NH. Tim suggested finding more information from deed plot and go to NHDEEDS.COM. Michael wanted it on record that they were simply trying to improve the land, and did not know that there was a problem with what he was doing.

Internal Business

Linda Jette swore in Michelle Veasey and Denise Legault as full members of the Conservation Commission, with three-year terms to commence immediately.

Secretary report: the May minutes were reviewed and amended. A motion was made to accept the May minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Time said that the SSP bills still need to be submitted for reimbursement.

Busby lot closing review and administrative tax rebate. The closing costs totaled \$1,584. The pro-rated real estate taxes were \$1,578 which were deducted from the proceeds to the Busbys. The total cost with the taxes and closing costs was \$402,634.35. The Conservation Commission will submit for an administrative rebate of \$1050.35. As part of the deed, the Busbys had a survey done which is recorded as plan 33598 in the Rockingham Country registry.

Election of officers for 2006: Michelle nominated Tim Dziechowski as Chairman. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention. Pete nominated Paul Wainwright as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention. Tim nominated Pete McVay to be recording secretary. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention. There was some discussion of creating and filling the post of correspondence secretary, similar to the position for the Zoning and Planning Boards.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Brooks wetlands complaint update. Representatives for Brooks were present at the last Planning Board meeting, but nothing further has happened on this complaint.

Hemlock Heights beach replacement permit endorsement letter went out June 5th.

5 Lisheen Road, dredge and fill without permit. Dave Wilk called Pete to give an update on the complaint. Pete advised him to contact the town Code Enforcement Officer if he has an issue that needs immediate attention.

31 Academy Avenue, site walk, swale by driveway. Tim got a call that the edge of the swale poses a hazard to the driveway and vehicles on the land, and the landowner wanted permission or a ruling on doing some work to reinforce it. Tim walked the site and the wet area in question is definitely a manmade swale, not wetlands.

Freshwater Farms wetlands/site issues: The code enforcement officer called Tim with a concern about the fill that seemed to be in the wetlands area behind Freshwater Farms. There does not appear to be a wetlands issue. Sue Killam informed the owner that they will need an engineer to update the site plan. Tim will also do a site walk.

Little Rob Road: Michelle noted that the Commission was made aware of further activity on a pond on Little Rob Road. Scott and Tim said that there was a complaint on this filed back in the 1990's. Pete will search the DES site for complaint status.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items: Master Plan natural resource inventory update. Tim has set up a Yahoo! Group for the master plan and has uploaded it there. The planning commission is working on a survey that may be mailed, and are trying to find a balance on the number of questions vs. the information needed. There are many growth and regulation issues that the voters' minds need to be surveyed on. The next meeting is June 14th, then June 28th.

Brooks Properties: warehouse application. Brooks properties was originally going to present an application for a warehouse, but decided against it and presented a plan confirming the parking lot that they had put in. An engineer for Brooks Properties presented the plan to the Board, but without a detailed plan set.

Zoning Board Agenda items: wetlands variance approvals. There were two wetlands variances that passed that were not on the Conservation Commission agenda. Tim will research the details on these.

Other Business

Denise Jackson requested permission for overnight parking on the canoe launch at Big Island Pond for a group that is planning a canoe trip on the lake. The commission informally granted permission. Pete will write a letter to the Police Department granting overnight permission on June 10th, and will send permission cards to Denise. The condition of the dock and landing was discussed. Tim wrote a letter to the Lions, but has not heard back. The dock has disappeared. Denise has seen it while kayaking. There are still vehicles illegally parked overnight on the lot. Scott mentioned that we need some definition of the area, such as a chain link fence. Pete will report the offenses to the police department after surveying the land to make sure of the boundaries and look in the registry for the deed.

2006 mowing: with the new Busby field, the mowing has suddenly increased. Tim presented the original budget, which called for only two mowings of the three town lands. It was noted that the 4-H field that adjoins the Sawyer lands is town land, not conservation land. Tim then recused himself and Paul assumed duties as chairman. A motion made to request the Selectmen for an increase in the budget by \$600 to cover the cost of mowing the new lands. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention. Tim resumed chairmanship. Pete will write a request to present to the Selectmen by a commission member.

Trailwrights proposal status. Pete has not heard back from Trailwrights since he proposed to them. He will contact them again, and this time note to them that we are willing to hire them. (Trailwrights is a voluntary organization that accepts donations, and does not charge for their services.)

DRED federal land grant land encroachment inspection. Michelle has signs from the state to post.

Updated tax maps. Tim called Terra-Map, the company that does the town tax maps. He informed Terra-Map that we would like updated tax maps similar to the format they provided in 2003. Pete will cut a CD and letter and mail it to them, requesting a CD with the updated information.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, July 10th, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay