

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
August 7, 2006
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:12.

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Dan Kimball
Denise Legault
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey
Paul Wainwright

Internal Business

Paul made a motion that this meeting cover only the most vital agenda items. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Secretary report: Paul moved that approval of the July minutes be deferred until the September meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Pete will update the minutes with corrections received and send out the revised draft.

Treasurer's report: Tim stepped down as chairman and Paul chaired the discussion of the mowing bill. The Busby field was mowed and bush-hogged for a cost of \$300. Michelle moved that we approve the bill and Dan seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention. There was also some general discussion of future use and maintenance of the field, including setting part of the field aside as a haying field. The discussion of field use and the building use was deferred until further plans can be drawn up for the use of the land.

Other:

Busby lot administrative tax rebate: Michelle reported that although RSA 76 states that the town should provide a tax abatement request form, the Selectmen's office requested a letter from the Conservation Commission. The first request was denied by the Town Administrator because of budget restrictions. Michelle contacted the Atkinson legal advisor after updating Tim. Sumner's office reported that they were advised by the Selectmen's office that the Conservation Commission should pay the taxes due at the closing and file for an abatement after the closing. He advised the Conservation Commission to proceed with the administrative tax abatement request. Michelle provided a letter for Tim to sign and will file the paperwork with the Selectmen's office this week. Michelle will request that the Selectmen's office advise the Conservation Commission of the date of scheduled review of the request. Members of the commission will attend the meeting.

Repairs on Forest Road extension: Access to the conservation lands for mowing is extremely difficult because the ground is saturated. Access is either through the Bitter Hill farm or the Bonin land, and both accesses are not accessible. It may be possible to mow the land only once, after the ground freezes but before it is snow-covered. A road in is possible, but a gravel road would cost \$167 per truckload and \$65 per hour with a minimum of four hours. Michelle asked whether we need to mow back there, and Tim noted that we need to keep the land open for use by boy scouts and other groups. To cover the potential cost, there is \$500 in the care of grounds line item plus \$300 for mowing, plus some unknown amount to finish the work. There is always the potential \$1,050 tax rebate from the Busby land purchase. Dan made a motion that we authorize the expenditure of up to \$2,000 of the Conservation Fund and \$800 of the conservation budget to repair the forest road extension. The motion was seconded and passed, five in favor and one opposed.

Trail map reprints: there is \$1,100 in the budget for printing and binding. Pete will update the trail maps with new wording corrections and the hunting lands marked correctly, as shown by the town warrants and land purchase agreements. Pete will update the lands on the web site and asked for feedback from commission members when posted. Paul moved to spend up to \$1,100 to reprint the trail maps. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

There was some discussion on the format of the map, including the mailing section that occupies a lot of space. This subject will be reviewed as the draft continues.

There is \$250 for special projects in the budget, which could also go toward the Forest Road repairs. There is \$400 for signs. Pete and Denise would like more signs for the canoe area. Tim asked for more ideas on signage.

Bridge, trails, and access improvement on the Busby land was discussed. Pete will investigate the costs of bridge and trail making and locate funding sources.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Brooks wetlands complaint update: the Planning Board received a letter from Brooks engineer claiming a permit in two weeks. The selectmen have issued a cease and desist order.

There has been no new action on requests and complaints for the Hemlock Heights, beach replacement permit, 27 Island Pond Road, dredge and fill without permit complaint, and the 5 Lisheen Road, dredge and fill without permit complaint.

Freshwater Farms wetlands/site issue was investigated and was not a violation.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board minutes and agenda

The Boyle variance request was approved. The Brooks Properties warehouse application was not approved.

Scenic byway project: Tim wrote a letter in support of the plan.. Some opposition to the proposal was voiced at the open hearing. It was voted to send the plan to the state.

Master plan update Tim expressed concern at the meeting about the narrow and restricted issues being presented in the master plan survey, and will take this up again if the issues are not more widely defined.

ZBA minutes and agenda - Action if needed

The Conservation Commission received a request for a copy of a variance letter for Mike Saviano, which was listed in the July 2005 conservation minutes. Through email on this request from Shirley to Michelle, and Pete and Tim, Tim noted that Mr. Saviano's lawyer has a copy of the letter. Pete will check on the files and make sure that all letters in files are in their proper locations in the planning office and the conservation filing cabinets. Pete also makes an annual CD backup of all Conservation Commission correspondence he has.

Other Business

Trail improvements, Sawyer/Bonin and Busby: we need a work session to go in and trim overhanging branches.

DRED federal land grant report: no new action

Updated tax maps: Pete attended the Selectmen meeting and formally requested assistance in getting the tax maps, since he has been unable to obtain these. The Selectmen directed the Town Administrator to get the maps from TerraMap. Pete will check again this week to see if this has been done.

Jane Jones lot revisited: no new action.

Forestry plan: no new action.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, Sep 6, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay