

Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission September 6, 2006 Atkinson Town Hall

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 07:08 PM

Attending:

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

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Zack Wolf, Troop 9, and **Keith Miller**, Troop 9 Scoutmaster. Zack presented a plan to improve the second pond behind the main pond at the Community Center. As his Eagle Scout project, he would like to clear and improve the second pond area for community use, and asked the Commission members for their opinions on the project. The Commission reviewed the plans and made suggestions, and gave informal approval for Zack to develop plans for the project. Michelle signed a scout project form on behalf of the Commission. Zack will be back with a formal plan at the October Commission meeting.

Charlie Zilch, SEC & Associates, presented plans for a driveway on tax map 9, lot 59, for the Birdsalls of Maple Avenue. The plan involved a driveway over two wetland areas to reach the house. The Commission reviewed the plans and had no extraordinary issues with wetlands crossings.

Internal Business

Secretary report: review of the meeting minutes for July and August were deferred to the October meeting.

Treasurer's report: The town road agent delivered three truckloads of gravel to the Forest Road extension access, for a cost of approximately \$500 for gravel and \$300 for labor. There may be further costs to complete this project. Money is available from the professional services line item to cover any further costs.

Other: The **Busby Land tax rebate** was discussed. Tim had discussed the rebate with the town administrator, but wasn't aware that the Board of Selectmen had directed the town administrator to get an opinion on whether or not to provide the rebate from the town legal advisor. Tim will discuss the matter with Russ and Sumner.

The **Trail Map reprint** project was discussed. The printer had quoted \$942 for 2,500 reprints. The commission also discussed the map marking of hunting zones. No-hunting conservation areas will be marked with red-circled numbers, and hunting conservation areas will be marked with black-circled numbers. Hunting is permitted in conservation lands 1 (Stickney), 2 (Marshall Land by Big Island Pond), 3 (Sawmill Swamp), 7, (Slade land) and 9 (Carolyn Orr). A motion was made to expend \$942.00 for 2,500 maps. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Pete will update the maps and send them to Conservation Commission members for review before contacting the printer.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Brooks Wetlands was resolved by the state, with the approval of an after-the-fact dredge and fill permit.

Hemlock Heights dredge and fill permit is still in process.

27 Island Pond after-the-fact dredge and fill was approved by the state.

5 Lisheen Road dredge and fill: still no action by the state.

An unauthorized wetland dredge and fill was done on West Side Drive and Pope Road, map 11 lot 30. A wetland that drains into one of the town aquifers was changed into a pond, disrupting the flow of the stream. A motion was made to file a complaint and comment on the application for dredge and fill. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Tim will investigate and write a complaint letter.

Tim reported that the owner of Stillwell's Ice Cream on Route 121 was concerned about an upcoming proposal for a **road access to Route 121**. The land in question is map 5, lot 2, and the proposal is to grant access on 121 rather than Hilldale Avenue. This would add even more traffic to the already difficult access to Route 121 in this area. There is no permit application to review, so the exact purpose of this access is unknown. The Commission will continue to watch this area for developments.

Conservation Easements / Land Purchases

Busby Land Use was discussed. The recreation committee was supposed to have been invited to the Commission meeting, but due to a miscommunication, no invitation was sent. In their absence, general discussion was held on the status and future of the Busby land. The only approved use of the land currently is the labyrinth in the far forested area. All other use is up for discussion. The one building will need some work to protect it from decay and keep it safe (covered windows, lock doors). No decision has been made on whether or not to proceed with the swap of this land for the 4H land adjoining the Sawyer lands, and how much of any land swap would be proposed. The Busby land agreement may set the tone and precedent for future land protection in Atkinson, so the Commission wants to proceed slowly and properly. Further discussion on potential land use was deferred to the October meeting.

Review of Correspondence

Zoning Board Agenda items:

The **Scenic Byway project** only requires Selectmen approval to be completed.

The **Master Plan** requires further expansion in the Natural Resources section. Commission members were asked to review the section and add their comments.

Other Business

The **Forestry Plan** is still in process. Updating the natural resource inventory (as stated above) must be completed first.

A request was made to put in a running **list of Conservation Projects** in the minutes. Pete will add this in the October minutes.

No further progress was reported on repairs to the **canoe ramp**.

Denise requested to add the **Hemlock Heights Reduced Salt Committee** proposal at the October meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, October 2nd, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay