

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
Monday, October 02, 2006
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:05.

Attending:

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

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

David Holigan, 13 Chase Island Road, Tax Map 22, Lot 13, presented a request to screen in an existing deck which is 25 feet from wetlands. David has a letter from the state giving permission to roof over and screen the deck, as long as it is not closer than 13 feet from the wetlands, the roof does not exceed 12 feet in length from the house and has no opening/closing windows or insulation. His porch is ten feet out from the house. The waiver request is on the Zoning Board agenda for the 11th. After discussion, the commission members felt that a site walk is in order before a final recommendation can be made. Denise and Tim will do the site walk. Michelle moved that the commission conditionally recommend allowing screening and roofing of the deck of record, with the requirement that drainage is added within a dry well of the new roof structure, and the variance be granted on condition that it never be turned into a year-round structure, and contingent upon the successful conclusion of the site walk. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Zack Wolf, Troop 9, and **Keith Miller**, Troop 9 Scoutmaster. Zack submitted a letter to the commission for his scout project, first proposed at the September commission meeting. Zack's proposal is to develop a trail to the second pond behind the Community Center, and add other improvements such as a bench and some brush clearing. Michelle and Dan expressed concern about the proposed plan and the environmental impact. Michelle will do a site walk with Zack to review the plans and any possible issues. Scott moved that we donate \$100 toward the project for materials for the bench. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Keith will save the bills and submit for reimbursement.

Michelle moved that the commission approve Zack's project around the back pond around the community center conditional upon the advice that we give on the site walk. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Michelle asked Keith if the scouts had an interest in maintaining and blazing the Sawmill Swamp Trail. Keith said that they have it in their plans for November.

On a separate issue, Patti Mangini noted that silt from the route 121 bridge and road repair was damaging the main pond. Research will be done to see if the state will pay for restoring the pond and immediate environs.

Recreation commission, Patti Mangini, Busby lot. Plans are still being formed on Busby Land use, and Tim said it may be too early for a warrant article. Tim will bring draft language to the November meeting to do a swap of the 4H lot. Since the town cannot hold an easement of its own land, it has to be held by an independent, but permanent, organization, such as SPNHF or "Friends of the Playgrounds". Michelle questioned the wording of any proposed easement, as to how to ensure that the purpose and intent of the land use cannot be questioned or changed in the future. Pete noted that there are state and private agencies that have boilerplate templates for easements. Tim and Dan commented that many of these boilerplates are so restrictive that all use of lands is banned. Pete and Michelle will independently research what legal help is available to draft an easement.

Internal Business

Secretary reports:

It was moved and seconded to approve the July minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

It was moved and seconded to approve the August minutes as amended. The motion passed with one abstention.

It was moved and seconded to approve the September minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

YTD expenses: no change since last month. Ted gave us the first bill for Forest Road extension (paid) and gravel bill (unpaid). Forest Road has been completely graveled and completed. The total amount of fill was nine loads. Ted Stewart has presented one bill for \$500, and the total bill will be around \$1500. It was suggested that the commission put in a warrant article to make Forest Road a fire road, which will place maintenance responsibility under the Road Agent budget. The road may also have to be gated to prevent vehicles from using it as a roadway. A gate would cost around \$150.

2007 budget: there is unused funding in the 2006 budget for signs, trail map reprints, and professional services.

Surveying: Surveys are also possible budget items, because of encroachment on town lands, such as the McPherson and Sawyer lands. Michelle asked if we would also need funds to write the proposed easements. Tim said we need money to hold easements, not write them. This is the time to do surveys, both because there is funding for it and surveyors need to be scheduled. Tim will find out details and report at the November conservation meeting.

Signage: signs have been a continual issue. There has been no consistent sign set, and we need some signs. Tim will check with Ted Stewart on available signs. Scouts and other volunteer organizations might be able to do the sign posting.

Busby lot administrative tax rebate: Tim has not talked to Sumner on this, and will follow up.

Trail map rework, review for printing: Pete has revised the trail map, based on notes from Michelle and others, and will send them out for review this week. Major changes to the map include designating hunting areas (Stickney, Marshall Land by Big Island Pond, Sawmill Swamp, Slade land, and Carolyn Orr land). and correcting the town land boundaries on the Stickney parcel. Once they are approved, they will be sent to the printer.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Landowner encroachment, Trinity Camp field: an invisible dog fence was put in the field by an abutter. Tim saw the marking flags while walking the land. It is in the back of the last house that abuts the conservation land. Tim, Scott, Dan will do a site walk.

Brooks wetlands after-the-fact permit was approved by the state.

Hemlock Heights, beach replacement permit: nothing to report

27 Island Pond Road, dredge and fill without permit: the town code officer reported that the owner is loaming the land. Nothing to report from the state.

5 Lisheen Road, dredge and fill without permit: no action.

Poole unpermitted dredge and fill ("fire pond"): Tim passed around a letter he wrote to the state concerning this action, commenting for the state.

Upcoming Paley development in commercial zone: no action yet, but appears to be some development going on behind Stillwell's.

Review of Correspondence

Master plan update question issues: Tim set up a collaboration/discussion group on Yahoo! and emailed invitations, but not all commission members got the invitation. The Master Plan consultant met with Denise and Tim and other Master Plan committee members. The contract has not been issued yet, and must be issued shortly in order to get funding. Scott had a manual on natural resource inventories prepared by the state, and will send out internet link (URL) locations to the commission.

Saviano letter copy request: Tim found the letter on disk, but needs to locate the referenced document.

Letter to selectmen - Ted Stewart brush cutting: the trimming around the old stage road marker was completed. Tim will send a letter of appreciation to Ted for the work.

Special Projects

Sawmill swamp lot purchase: Marilyn Sherman (Latte) approached Tim about a possible sale of the land, which would complete an important section of the Sawmill Swamp. Tim has an offer in process, in accordance with funding authorized by the Commission in January 9, 2006 meeting.

Jane Jones lot revisited: no action.

Forestry plan: no action.

Denise: the Hemlock Heights Improvement Association salt project: The Association met with Ted Stewart for information on Atkinson road salting. Ted said that Atkinson uses a 25% Magnesium Chloride (MgCl₂) mixture, and uses 50% less salt than the state. This is more expensive, but has a much lower impact on the pond and surrounding wetlands. The Association will also be doing long-term conductivity studies of the pond to determine the environmental impact of salting.

The annual New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions will be November 4th.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:06.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay