

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

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:06.

Attending:

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

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Zack Wolf, Troop 9, Eagle Scout project: Zack could not attend. Michelle reported on her site walk with him on the proposed pond trail behind the community center. She made several suggestions for his project, including reducing the trail width to six feet and leave some uncleared areas around the pond, to reduce environmental impact. Michelle also has approved the project and suggested to Scoutmaster Keith Miller that there are other similar areas that would be available for other scout projects. Pete suggested adding pictures and story of the project on the Conservation web site.

Recreation Commission, Busby Lot: SPNH consultant Mike Speltz had mentioned to Michelle that the exact wording of the warrant article was important, so Scott produced a list of land use articles related to land use warrants. Tim had consulted the town attorney (Sumner) about this issue. The wording of the articles over the years seems to show that the LUCT money returns to the commission for anything covered under RSA 36:A, but cannot expand beyond that. Michelle asked if this limits the activities such as recreation. Tim showed the Chester's land use article which seems to show that it is very loosely interpreted. The Rockingham Planning Commission could monitor the land at a one-time cost of \$100 an acre. Michele Tremblay, directory of the New Hampshire "Moose License Plate" program, advised Michelle against using any sort of "Friends of..." organization to do the monitoring and hold the easements, since the legal standing of these groups is often questioned. Extensive discussion followed on options, language, workshops and training programs. No motion or action was entertained and the discussion was tabled for further research.

Busby Land cleanup: Tim did some mowing and brush clearing on Busby, moving the edge of the woods all the way to the stream. Michelle, Patti Mangini, and Noriko Travers did some clearing and set up a rough outline of the new labyrinth trail. Tim measured the barn on the property for Plexiglas and will need a weekend to secure the barn. A work weekend to clear out around the stream ford and stone crossing is also needed. A walk and cleanup was tentatively scheduled for the Thanksgiving weekend, since most members will be available. Pete suggested promulgating the cleanup project on the web site. Most of the "recruiting" will be done by word of mouth, and Pete will draft a proposed wording on the web site for Commission review and approval.

Internal Business

Secretary report: The October 2006 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

YTD expenses: As of Halloween, the Commission had \$5,378 available out of a \$6,678 budget. Tim has a number of payments to submit, such as NHACC dues. It was also suggested and informally approved to advance our membership in SPNHF to a higher level.

Trail maps have been sent to the printer. Pete will contact the printer for progress, since the maps should be done and available, and also to get a bill paid under the current year budget.

Mowing: the original budget was for \$2300, and the selectmen approved overspending this by \$600. \$1700 is left in the account to cover Ted Stewart's graveling bill, and the mowing bill.

New equipment: the Conservation brush trimmer needs repairing, and there is \$100 in the budget to cover repairs. Tim and Scott will investigate what needs to be done.

General discussion on budget: the big items still outstanding are care of grounds, road regraveling, and the map printing bill. There was also some discussion on the need for flood control on the Bonin land.

Paul assumed chairmanship as Tim recused himself. A bill from Tim's Tractor for four mowings at \$300 each was presented for mowing the Busby land, Community Center, Bonin, and the 4H field, for a total of \$1200. Scott made a motion to pay the bill as presented, and the motion was seconded. The motion passed with six ayes and one abstention. moved pay bill. Seconded. Passed with one abstention. Tim resumed chairmanship.

Surveying: three survey projects had been discussed with LaValle: right of way from Industrial Way, Sawyer land access, and canoe launch. Sumner said that the Commission does not hold right-of-way on the Industrial Road plot, so that survey was dropped. Discussion ensued on surveying the Sawyer land entrance to clarify and mark the entrance boundaries. Pete and Denise requested a survey of the canoe launch, also to include signage and boundary marking. Tim will talk to LaValle about surveying, and Denise and Pete will do canoe launch signs. Pete motion to expend out of professional services, special projects, and sign budget for surveying, signs, and marking of boundaries of Middle Sawyer Entrance (3-108) to conservation land and canoe launch ramp on Big Island Pond. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Other:

Busby lot administrative tax rebate: Tim has to get a letter from Sumner approving the funding as approved by the Selectmen.

Repairs on Forest Road extension: Ted Stewart mentioned to Tim that he might be interested in doing more work on the road. The Commission felt that this should be put into next year's budget. Trail repairs on the Sawyer trail were discussed, but deferred for more research and definition of work.

Trail maps: Pete said the copy was sent to the printer and he will check on status. Scott mentioned that Andover, Massachusetts, produces a booklet of trail maps and there are a number of other Massachusetts towns that have produced similar packages. This might be a model for future trail map development.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

Landowner encroachment, Trinity Camp field: the invisible fence flags have been removed.

Hemlock Heights, beach replacement permit: no status change.

27 Island Pond Road: dredge and fill without permit: no status change.

5 Lisheen Road: NH DES ruled that there was "no violation".

Poole unpermitted dredge and fill: at state level, and state has not taken action.

Upcoming Paley development near Stillwell's: no status change.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items:

No actions or changes to report.

Zoning Board Agenda items:

Saviano letter copy request: action has been continued.

Ted Stewart brush cutting: Tim will write a letter to the Selectmen proposing this cutting.

Other Business

Sawmill swamp lot purchase: Marilyn Matte has agreed to sell the abutting lot to the Sawmill Swamp to complete the land access to the swamp. Tim will approach the Selectmen for permission to spend the \$14,000 for the purchase.

Jane Jones lot: no new action.

Forestry plan: still under development.

NHACC meeting: Pete attended the annual **New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions** meeting and also presented a session on "Geek Tools for the Conservationist". The annual meeting is attended by representatives from all Conservation Commissions in New Hampshire, and conservation groups such as SPNHF, Audubon, Fish and Game, and DES. His presentation (and all presentations) are available on the NHACC website at <http://www.nhacc.org/nhacc.htm>.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, December 4th, at 7:00. Tim will have a warrant draft to present then.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay