

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
December 4, 2006
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:11.

Attending:

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

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Susan and David Rowell, Map 16 Lot 41, 25 Emery Drive, requesting a wetlands setback variance for a 14-foot addition to existing dwelling before current zoning restrictions. Tim drew a diagram of the plot plan, based on a site walk done by Denise and Tim. They saw no encroachment on wetlands on their site inspection, and the proposal is 50 feet from wetlands. It was moved and seconded to write a recommendation of approval to the Atkinson Zoning Board. Denise recommended adding detail in the recommendation letter as to why the Commission saw no issues: that is, no significant disturbance to the wetland from what is already there. The motion passed unanimously, and Tim will write the letter.

Bob Gibbs, Map 17 Lot 34, 3 Brookside Terrace, Wetlands setback variance to raise garage and make an addition. Tim and Pete walked the site on Saturday. There is a vernal pool and wetlands 39 feet from the edge of the proposed addition, and Bob wants to raise the garage floor three to four feet to reduce flooding of the basement and garage. Pete had no issues: Tim suggested digging a deeper swale to help control water flow and protect the wetland. The lot abuts the Provencher land that is the subject of a complaint (Conservation minutes, May and June 2006), where part of the wetlands was filled in, affecting the water table. It was moved and seconded to write a letter of recommendation to the ZBA stating the issues we saw on site walk and why we think it is a sound plan, based on the situation. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Carbone, Map 23 Lot 29, Stickney Road, requested an informational session on what DES and town procedures and forms are needed to build a carport on vacant lot. Lot is across the street from the main house and the section is three lots, plus the parking lot, divided by the Y-shaped Stickney property. Tim provided the web site to the forms section for wetlands and dredge-and-fill permits. Scott recommended the Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) as a guideline for permits.

Recessed at 8:10 to attend Selectmen's meeting. Tim Dziechowski presented the proposed Conservation Commission budget to the Selectmen. Resumed meeting at 8:50.

Internal Business

Woodlawn trail scout cleanup report: the whole scout troop showed up, cleared undergrowth, made a log bridge, and blazed a trail.

Busby lot work weekend report: Scott, Dan, and Tim worked on Saturday. Scott brought brush cutter and cleared the ford and stonework, up to the labyrinth plot. Dan and Tim worked on securing the building windows. Tim noted that there is a hole in the roof and we need a work weekend to put on a protective tarp. Tim will also get a price for budget of next year.

Secretary report - Review and approval of minutes: deferred to January.

Treasurer's report: The Commission account has \$2,419 left unspent. Outstanding (unpaid) expenses left for the year are \$1,500 for surveys and \$400 for signs. A bill for \$1,116 for gravel is to be paid from the Conservation fund. The Selectmen allowed the commission to overspend the budget by \$600 for mowing. Tim will submit the proposed budget on Monday, increasing the funds for trail repairs and will look for grant money. Tim also noted that all expenses for this year must be submitted by 20 December.

Special projects

Ted Stewart, tree removal: A "widowmaker" tree on conservation land across the street from the MacPherson land needed to be removed. Ted Stewart removed the tree and submitted a bill for \$175.00. A motion was made and seconded to pay out of special programs. The motion passed unanimously.

Survey update: Lavelle said they will start surveying. Tim, Pete looked at canoe launch and Tim checked Sawyer site, and LaValle not started yet. Must be done in time to both bill and set markers before ground is frozen.

Trail maps: the maps are in the conservation storage area in Town Hall, and the bill has been submitted and paid.

Conservation land signage: Dan will make signs for spring. Dan needs the materials, sign templates and the bits. There is \$400 in the budget to cover sign maintenance. A motion was made and seconded to authorize Dan to purchase up to \$400 in sign materials and parts. The motion passed unanimously.

Busby cleanup expenses: Dan submitted a bill for \$57.59 for glazing lumber and supplies. A motion was made and seconded to reimburse Dan for expenses. The motion passed unanimously.

Forest Society membership renewal: \$83 is left in the dues and subscriptions budget line item. The Forest Society has not sent a bill yet, so Tim will find the fee and pay it to meet the December 20th deadline.

Stationery: Pete put the stationery in the Conservation Commission file cabinet. There is still \$400 in the budget for postage, which should be reallocated.

Gravel bill: has to be paid out of Conservation fund. Tim will see about shifting the funds in unexpended line items into grounds and maintenance.

Busby lot administrative tax rebate: The status of the reimbursement to the Commission is still uncertain. The selectmen minutes from the spring do not show that the town administrator was ordered to reimburse the Commission for this cost, but the videotape of the session does show it. Sumner has said it is legal and passed this finding on to Fred Childs. Tim will investigate and get this on the selectman's agenda.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

2006-00066 Paul Masone, Stickney Road: shoreline restoration, Approved but administrative action being taken by DES. Shoreline is being restored by state administrative orders. It crosses the Stickney right-of-way.

2006-00875 Hemlock Heights, beach replacement permit: Denise spoke with the permit filer. The permit filer spoke to DES, who requested more information. The permit filer sent further information and will follow up on status.

(No file #) 27 Island Pond Road: dredge and fill without permit. Ongoing.

2006-02263 Poole unpermitted dredge and fill ("fire pond"): The DES is working on a backup workload to last August, and the processing is administratively incomplete until they catch up.

Map 5 Lot 2, Paley: illegal dumping of brush on wetlands. Tim and Pete walked the site and made notes and took pictures. Tim will file a complaint.

Horse manure on trails: A complaint was received about horse manure on Crown Hill trails. There are no known regulations regarding animal cleanup on trails. Pete will investigate regulations.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items: Scenic byway was discussed.

Zoning Board Agenda items: no action.

Other Business

Sawmill swamp lot purchase: A public hearing is scheduled for December 21 in the town hall, at 7:30.

Jane Jones lot: all actions are deferred until next year.

Forestry plan: all action is deferred until next year.

Warrant article, Forest Road Extension:

“Article 2007-x Classify Forest Road extension as an emergency lane.

Shall the Town adopt the Forest Road extension as an emergency lane as proposed by the Atkinson Conservation Commission?

(This allows graveling and culvert maintenance to be done by the Road Agent who has the equipment to deal with it. This will facilitate maintenance and allow emergency responder access. The Conservation Commission has already graveled and repaired this road so there is no cost to the town except for ongoing maintenance.)

Designate the access trail from the end of Forest Road to the

Bonin Field as an emergency lane as provided for under RSA 231:59-A.”

A motion was made and seconded to present the article as proposed above to the Selectmen for consideration of their vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Warrant article, Busby and Sawyer Lands:

“Article 2007-x Exchange conservation use for recreation use

As proposed by the Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission:

Shall the Town grant a conservation easement on Map 4 Lot 11 (former Sawyer 4H field) in exchange for a recreation deed addendum on Map 15 Lot 27 (new conservation land at East Road and Line Brook Road). This would allow expansion for active outdoor sports fields and associated parking on the east side of town.

Terms of the exchange to be by easement and/or deed addendums agreed to by the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Selectmen, and town counsel.”

A motion was made and seconded to present the article as proposed above to the Selectmen for consideration of their vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A **work session** to tarp the roof of the Busby land barn was discussed. Scott, Tim, and Dan are available Christmas week.

Steve Walker of the NH DEP wants to attend a future conservation commission meeting, to discuss **LCHIP and easement monitoring**. Scott will be the liaison to arrange a meeting date.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, January 8, at 7:30.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay