

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
January 8, 2007
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:00.

Attending:

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

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Randy Bishop was welcomed to the Commission. Randy joined the Commission at this meeting, an alternate appointee assigned by the Selectmen.

Tim opened the meeting as a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, and Recreation Planning Committee. Those attending from the other groups were:

Patti Mangini, Recreation Commission Chairman
Noriko Yoshida-Travers, Recreation
Dolores D. Dooling, Recreation Planning Committee
Joan M. Fettes, Recreation Planning Committee
Susan Ober, Recreation Planning Committee
Gary Sherman, Recreation Planning Committee

Tim reported that Harold Morse has had the Sawyer lot (known as the 4H field) informally surveyed, found the iron pins, and set flags around the perimeter. Harold proposes that Recreation use a hilltop site here instead of the Busby land. Tim walked the land and the three Atkinson selectmen have also walked it. Reasons presented against using the Sawyer land were: the land is very wet year-round (soil map from 1998 showed extensive hydric soils); the land abuts heavily used walking trails on the Sawyer conservation parcels, meaning insect control and fertilizing would be prohibited; and the land itself is not flat and would require grading and filling. Other items to consider would be the length of time to get a dredge-and-fill permit from the state and the increased traffic on Sawyer Avenue.

A proposed warrant article was brought up for discussion and presentation to the Board of Selectmen. The draft wording of the article was:

Article 2007-x Exchange Conservation Use for Recreation Use

As proposed by the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Commission

"Shall the Town grant a conservation easement on Map 4 Lot 11 (former Sawyer 4H field, at the corner of Sawyer Avenue and Main Street) in exchange for a recreation deed addendum on Map 15 Lot 27 (new conservation land at East Road and Line Brook Road). The land on East Road would be used for multipurpose athletic fields to support sports such as Lacrosse and Field Hockey, walking paths, and associated parking on the east side of town. The town land on Sawyer Avenue would be added to the adjacent conservation land. Terms of the exchange to be by easement and/or deed addendums agreed to by the Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Selectmen, and Town Counsel. No new tax dollars need to be raised or appropriated for this warrant article."

A motion was made by Michelle for the Conservation Commission to bring this article before the selectmen. The motion was seconded by Paul and passed with a unanimous vote of the Conservation Commission members.

A motion was made by Noriko for the Recreation Commission to bring this article before the selectmen. The motion was seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of the Recreation Commission members.

A motion was made by Dolores for the Recreation Planning Committee to bring this article before the selectmen. The motion was seconded and passed with a unanimous vote of the Master Plan Recreation Commission members.

The joint meeting adjourned at 8:20 to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting.

Other Business

The Conservation Commission reconvened at 9:30 to discuss the agenda and the next meeting. A motion was made and seconded to hold a second public Conservation Commission meeting on January 22nd at 7:00 in the Town Hall. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, January 22, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay