

Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
March 5, 2007
Atkinson Town Hall

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 8:35.

Attending:

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

Guests:

Dolores D. Dooling
Joan M. Fettes
Patti Mangini
Noriko Yoshida-Travers
Jack Sapia
Steve Walker

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Steve Walker, Conservation Land Stewardship, Office of Energy and Planning, was present to discuss the duties of stewardship and monitoring for local conservation lands. The town must give an annual report to the OEP on the Carolyn Orr land.

Good recordkeeping is important because of legal and political issues: that is, good records can answer any questions about status, right-of-way, and land use. Steve presented a model being used by OEP for land monitoring. There is a "field file" and an "office file" for each property. The "office file" is stored and the "field file" is taken onsite whenever a site survey is done. These files contain online (internet) information and surveys, and location maps, property history, project agreements and/or deeds.

Michelle asked if there are workshops or online help in how to use and maintain the surveys. Steve said that he can be contacted and would be glad to set up a workshop, possibly combining several towns into a session. Next year, the forms will be available online.

Denise asked if Steve's office helps conservation committees with land issues. Steve said that 78 towns and/or communities covered by LCIP are eligible for his assistance. Patti asked if more towns will be added. Steve answered that the LCIP program has ended and no more towns will be added. RSA 221-A was repealed, and replaced by 162-C, which creates the caretaker trust fund for the former LCIP trust fund. However, other RSAs cover the LCIP responsibilities, and fish and game and the forestry division also cover the same issues. New Hampshire Everlasting is trying to get 25% of all communities into public (town-owned or conservation) land. Tim noted that Atkinson is 17 square miles, and has about one square mile (about 5%) in public land.

Denise asked about LCIP funding. Steve replied that there is \$50 million in the OEP budget, of which \$1 million is an endowment. Selectmen are the ones who are ultimately responsible for stewardship.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay