

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
August 6, 2007
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:10.

Attending:

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

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Dube Construction for Jean and James Foley: Wetlands Variance, 5 Chase Island Road, Tax Map 20, lot 12. A 16.3-foot variance for wetlands distance was requested. This is one of the largest lots in the Boulder Cove area. Denise, Michelle and Tim did a site walk, and saw no problems with a variance. A motion was made to recommend the variance to the Zoning Board, subject to addressing the runoff on the new roof and vehicular access. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Margaret Jackson: Girl Scout Trail Project, Sawmill Swamp. Denise (Margaret's mother) had spoken to Michelle and said they were not ready to meet with the Commission at tonight's session. Michelle had discussed the proposed trail markings with Denise and Margaret and pointed out that the access trail abuts the Gordon Brown land and we must be sensitive to the abutter's rights. She would like to put up some small signs. Tim suggested a permanent trail station sign that won't rot. There was general discussion of various options: signs or pamphlets with the flora and fauna and history of the area, permanent signs, trail system markers, and perhaps maps and a kiosk. There was also a deferred discussion of holding a Conservation workshop meeting to review options.

There was some side discussion about the problems of illegal motorized access, mostly ATVs, on conservation land. Michelle had put up a couple of ATV notices at Sawyer and the signs have not come down. Tim suggested putting up snow fence to block ATV access where it is a problem.

Dan showed his proposal for a sign for Sawyer's and showed his preliminary sign. The sign was designed in three durable wood panels. The panels were designed to be slid in and out of postholders for maintenance and updates. The top sign was "Sawyer Lands", while the middle would be a router-made map, and the lower a "No motorized vehicles" notice. The initial design was excellent, and Dan was commended for his hard work and craftsmanship. There was discussion on the exact wording and control of vehicles on the land. Tim proposed control through opening and closing the gate, because of snowmobile access when the ground was frozen. Tim and Ted Stewart have keys, and Atkinson Police would follow the policies developed by the Conservation Commission. Michelle proposed a trail walk after the signs are completed. The Conservation rule at the moment is "No motorized wheeled vehicles", so the actual wording and placement of the vehicle notice was deferred. A motion was made that Dan do the sign for the Sawyer Area, with a placeholder for the map, to state "Sawyer Conservation Area" and "No Motorized Wheeled Vehicles". The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Tim noted that there was some delay between meetings for authorized Conservation expenditures, because all expenses had to be approved at monthly Conservation meetings. This places a finance burden on members to forward their own money and look for reimbursement later, sometimes taking months. A motion that the Chairman be authorized to spend up to \$200 without Commission preapproval and individual members may spend up to \$100 upon consulting with the Chairman for Commission activities related to budget line items. Expenditures must be submitted at a subsequent Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Tim noted this should be addressed in a subsequent bylaws meeting.

Pete had used a manual posthole digger to reset the Marshall Sign trail. It was suggested that he contact Ted Stewart, who might have a motorized posthole digger to place the sign deeper.

Internal Business

Secretary report: A motion was made to approve the July minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed with two abstentions.

Treasurer's report: Tim recused himself as chairman and vice-chairman. Paul presented an invoice dated Aug 6th, from Tim's Tractor for mowing the Sawyer Field for \$300. A motion was made to pay the \$300 bill for mowing out of the Care of Grounds budget. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Paul stepped down and Tim resumed duties as chairman.

All other pending bills have gone in for payment.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

2007-01397 Waselchuck, 12 Chase Island Road, Map 22 Lot 36, construction of wall and boat ramp without permit. No action.

2004-02460 Mildred Reynolds, 23 Chase Island Road, construction of seawall without permit. No action.

Conservation Easements / Land Purchases

Sarah Callahan, East Road Easement. Action was deferred. A workshop meeting may be scheduled to review it.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items:

Willowvale subdivision, development rights: continued at owner's request. They are returning with a request for lot line adjustment. There was some question about having the Commission or SPNHF to hold development right easement. They cannot build on it, but it can be used to calculate density for clustering.

Zoning Board Agenda items:

Mullet Trust (Willow Vale) variance granted (see above)

Malborn (Valcat Lane) variance/conversion granted

Baker, 16 Chase Island Road, tear down and rebuild on same footprint, seasonal conversion and wetlands variance. The applicant did not contact the Conservation Commission for review, although wetlands were involved.

Dube, 5 Chase Island Road, wetlands variance (see above) coming up Wednesday.

Other Business

Repair of "DR cutter" string mower: Tim reported that the repair shop is shut down for six weeks, so repair is deferred until September.

Jane Jones lot, Dennis Spurling sent a letter to Sumner, asking what information is needed to convey this land. Sue Killiam has to get together with Tim to talk to Sumner and review of documents.

Forestry plan, October meeting: Tim said Charlie Moreno would like to attend our October meeting to discuss the plan. Tim also will rescan the whole forestry plan book, using Omniplan to turn the scan into an editable document.

Forest Society easement on Sawyer parcel: no action

Island Pond Canoe Launch: Michelle and Denise went kayaking around Atkinson shore, and there was discussion of a "Kayak Day" on the pond. The Jacksons offered their parking area across the street from the launch for the day. September 22nd was proposed as the date.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, September 10th, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay