

Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
April 6, 2009
Atkinson Town Hall

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:35

Attending:

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

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

- **Denise Jackson, Girl Scout project.** Denise has three scouts looking for gold award. (the equivalent of Eagle in Boy Scouts). One proposed project was a new trail on the Busby Land off East Road. Tim suggested that a project of this type would require building a walkbridge over the stream in the back of the property, and building a walkbridge would require access by some trucks for the bridge materials. Construction on the Busby Land sports fields will start in a few weeks, and this would limit access for bridge-building materials. Some discussion that materials would be donated by a local concern if the scouts would want to build the bridge. The trail would be very natural and follow the flow of the land. The labyrinth needs to be rebuilt because of storm damage. Other projects mentioned were invasive species control, which is a big need. Denise will be back with further plans in the May meeting.
- **Charlie Moreno, Sawyer Ave forest inventory,** recommendations. Charlie gave a long and detailed update on the status of the project. There were nine parcels on the detailed survey done in 1989. Previous conservation meeting discussions were for Charlie to update the plans and resurvey. Part of the previous survey was a forest inventory of the plots. Recommended first step was an inventory of the Sawyer lot. Charlie has the inventory results of the work done this year and will send it to the Commission electronically. 20 more acres have been added (the "4H" land) since the 1989 survey. Charlie reviewed the report, which consisted of plot survey results, statistics, and tables. Dan commented that the Conservation Commission needs a goal and plan for each plot before a forest management plan can be put in place, to take into account a balance between ecological, wildlife, recreation, and economic goals. Considerations of generating revenue for further forest management have to be balanced against the need for maintaining a wildlife habitat. Because of access restrictions, two of the conservation plots cannot currently be harvested, but may require management for invasive species and disease. There is a sustainable harvest report on the last page of the 1989 report. Natural Heritage Institute has a lot of information on forests. <http://www.nhdfi.org/about-forests-and-lands/bureaus/natural-heritage-bureau/>
There was discussion about the need to return to a rotating harvest schedule. Next steps: need a checklist and need to hire Charlie. Half of the cost can come from our professional services budget and half from the general conservation fund. A motion was made by Paul to hire Charlie to work on the forestry plan for Sawyer, with a price of \$2800 or less, partly from the operating budget and partly from the Conservation Fund. Dan, Michelle, and Paul mentioned that we need a priorities list and goal setting. Charlie said he could generate a checklist. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

The next review date was discussed: the May agenda is full, so June was set as the target meeting date. The Trailwrights are attending May meeting and will be walking in June, and this can be coordinated with the recreation part. Perhaps Trailwrights would wait for the walk until after the logging has been done to assess the trail situation.

- **Lindsay O'Reilly**, Gove Environmental Services, **dredge and fill application for 2 Lisheen Drive**. Want to put in an erosion control system with riprap coir/filtrex fabric and standard control materials to help control the erosion that occurs in this area. A wetland variance has been granted. Seeking a minimum impact (not expedited) from the state. Paul made a motion that the Conservation not intervene. Motion seconded and passed 5 to 2.

Internal Business

Treasurer's report: no money was expended in March.

Secretary report: A motion was made to accept the November 2008 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

- **Wetlands disturbance on Willowvale**. Dan showed before and after photos taken by an abutter of 13 Willowvale. A wooded area was cleared, filled, and leveled and winter damage was also cleared up through the wetland, stopping a natural stream flow. No action taken at the moment, but will keep the area under advisement.
- **Report of Asian Longhorn Beetle** from Steve, at a specific phone number. Dan called the number and there was no "Steve" at this number.
- **Gagnon wetlands setback variance request, Industrial Drive**. Tim was contacted again about what we planned to do, and replied that the Conservation opinions and actions were made very clear in the email to the ZBA after the November 2008 meeting.
- **DES file 2007-01672, Perry, noncompliant dock, 9 Lakeside Drive, Map 23 Lot 62**. They have less than 75 feet of frontage, which is required for a dock. The complaint dates back to 2007.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items:

- **Truck fuel depot** on Industrial Drive, approved.
- **Dunkin Donuts on Route 111**, approved.
- **Night lighting at golf course** driving range.
- **New 9 hole** golf course

Zoning Board Agenda items:

- **Gilles Gagnon expansion**, letter to ZBA
- **Osborne, variance change** to finish basement at 8 Valcat Lane
- **Keith Wolters, administrative appeal** of zoning interpretation that truck terminal is a permitted use for PJ Murphy on Industrial Drive

Other Business

- **Commission went into private session under RSA 91-A:3, II (d)** to discuss land and possible gift lands with the Selectmen. The private session closed at 9:30. The Chairman noted that no business was transacted in the private session.
- **Reappointments** were discussed. Because of resignations and new assignments, the membership rotation schedule has not been kept current or orderly. The town clerk records need to be reviewed to find out who is up for reappointment and to adjust terms so that all do not expire on the same year.

- **Election warrants** and town election results were discussed and presented.
 - a) prime wetlands passed 1268 to 319, paperwork to DES
 - b) make 20 acre Sawyer parcel a town forest, passed 1404 to 215
 - c) allow using conservation fund for land out of town, passed 1078 to 500
- **CTAP targeted local government grants** - \$10K of funding is available through the CTAP program for various projects in Atkinson. Julie LaBranche of the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) will present details at the May meeting.
- **Milfoil chemical treatment** at Big Island Pond. A hearing on the project was held in Hampstead, with dredging, diving, and chemical treatment options presented. There is now a 30-day comment period.
- **Prime wetlands legislation** filed by Jim Garrity, DES willing to change prime wetlands rules to provide a 483-B:12 type exception procedure. Amended by house committee to remove municipal exceptions, which changes the intent of the bill.
- **Updated 2009 conservation project list**
 - a) Trailwrights meeting in May
 - b) RPC presentation by Julie LaBranche
 - c) Denise Jackson for scouts

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, May 4th, at 7:30.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay