

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
September 8, 2010
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:36

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Denise Legault
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey
Paul Wainwright

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Julie LaBranche, RPC, review of NRI proposal and outline. Julie is waiting for data from the state and requested a postponement to October meeting. She would like some direction from us. Julie did send a set of maps and charts to be included in the NRI and they were reviewed by the Commission. Michelle asked for an updated review copy of the NRI proposal, noting that there are a lot of gaps. Tim said Julie had promised an advanced copy. Pete asked if the electronic versions were available. Tim replied that Julie has them and they are also on the RPC web site. Their size may be an issue. Pete will contact Julie to see if he can get electronic copies.

Jim Kirsch came to discuss Michael Zedalis, 4 East Road, concerning **noncompliance with wetland mitigation** for deck construction. In meetings with the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board, Mr. Zedalis was granted a waiver provided he include plantings after the deck was constructed to control runoff. This has not been done. Tim has a copy of the plans at home and will put them in a file with a cover letter to put in the lot file, with a copy to the code enforcement officer.

Brian Desfosses, DES dam bureau, needs an expedited dredge and fill signed off so the dam bureau can remove a beaver dam under 111. Tim signed off on the dredge and fill. The beaver dam is in the low area on 111 in Hampstead which often floods during heavy rains.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items:

No public hearings this month.

Main discussion was the proposed **Plaistow train layover**. The layover would abut Atkinson conservation lands, which makes the town an abutter and interested party. The next public hearing is in the Plaistow Town Hall on September 15th, and details on the layover are on the Plaistow town web set at www.plaistow.com. Denise and Paul also raised the issue of groundwater contamination possibilities because of idling engines and refueling.

Zoning Board Agenda items: no issues related to conservation.

Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

6/14 complaint filed with police about tree service dumping brush into conservation wetlands on Lakeside Drive, tree company contact is Jim Perry from Sandown tree company, he said he will clean it up.

6/28 asst. road agent Josh Dugale reported that somebody dumped 50-60 cubic yards of wood chips into conservation wetlands on Lakeside Drive, not sure if related to tree company incident. Tim went to the Police Department and asked for the officer who investigated the complaint to contact him, but no one ever contacted him.

Lakeside Drive cleanup, received a letter from Philip Sulish, president of Stickney Shores Homeowner's Association. Contact person is their secretary Marie Carolan. Pete will follow up.

Dock dredge and fill filed by Osborne, 8 Valcat Lane, still administratively incomplete: no change.

Nault, complaint about water discharge from neighbor's land on Island Pond Road: no change.

Mike Zedalis, East Road. Jim Kirsch confirms that Mike completed the deck without obtaining a building permit and doesn't feel that he needs to put in the buffer plants we agreed on. Tim to follow up with code enforcement.

Nancy Raczka, Map 23, Lot 79 Boulder Cove. Permit denied.

Other Business

Sawyer Forestry Cut - Greg Morris (logger) came in and set up on Friday, September 3rd and has commenced logging. The field around the staging area needs to be mowed by the Commission so the field will be properly cleaned up. Michelle asked if signs were posted warning visitors that the trails were closed. Tim will check with Sumner on liability issues. Pete and Michelle insisted the area be posted for public safety reasons.

Prime wetlands, DES file 2010-02254, under technical review by Frank Richardson of the DES Pease office.

Internal Business

Treasurer's report - Paid NHACC dues and ordered two copies of "Planting at the Water's Edge". Discussion ensued on remaining budget items where funds are available: \$1,000 for maintenance, \$1,800 for Professional Services, and \$500 in Special Projects. Tim asked for possible uses since there are so many conservation and administrative needs. Proposals brought forward were:

- Wide format (11x17) printer-scanner. An excellent one is on sale now for less than \$200. Tim will purchase one, to be installed in the planning office.
- Erosion on Crown Hill Road. The difficulty is getting maintenance equipment in for repair.
- Canoe Launch needs one float repaired.
- Fall cleanup on Lakeside drive, including tree removal on conservation land. Pete will investigate.
- Fencing of important conservation areas, including the continued violations on the McPherson Land.
- Surveys of important areas.
- Fill in NRI plan shortfalls
- Special books and publications related to conservation management.
- Building a bridge on East Road (Busby lot)
- Plastic trail material, test trails of different materials
- Education and conferences (SPNHF and Nature Conservancy)

Pete will create a list of options to prioritize and post in Atkinson.org and be pulled for the October meeting to finalize the list.

Secretary report – Review of July and August minutes was deferred to October. Phil Smith would like all of our minutes sent to him electronically within five days and cc'ed to Bill Bennett. Pete will resume sending the minutes.

Town web page update. Pete is updating the web site and will work on repairing the format and style sheets starting in January. Tim asked for an FTP link to be added to the site. Pete will check with Scott to see if the host contract allows that.

Michelle has the old Conservation GPS which is now out of date. She will place it in the Conservation file cabinet.

Denise has been investigating and surveying the Atkinson farms. She met with Sue Killam and will meet with Rod Woods tomorrow. There was a 33% increase in farms in Rockingham County in five years (2002-2007).

Private Session: Conservation Easements / Land Purchases

Commission went into private session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (d) to discuss land and possible gift lands. It was moved and seconded to go into private session, Passed unanimously.

Essex County Greenbelt. Tim met with Vanessa Johnson of the Greenbelt. The landowners wanted to do a land trade, which is not possible. The land can only be used for conservation. We agreed to exchange maps by email and come up with a strategy for crossing the border. When Tim gets the maps from Vanessa and he will put them both together. D'Urso has bought the extra property that would have provided access. The property was sold for \$3,750 which was less than 1/5 of what we offered for the land. The realtor (McPherson) is a cousin of D'Urso, and there is no evidence that he did or did not tender our offer to the landowner.

For the train layover, Tim looked at deeds and lands which showed a piece of land next to the swamp area in Carolyn Orr. The land is assessed at \$6,000. The general consensus was that we should save our funds for the Rick Shaefer land.

Private session was closed at 9:51 by motion that passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, October 6th, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay