

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
May 7, 2012
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:21.

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Dan Kimball
Denise Legault
Pete McVay
Paul Wainwright

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

New alternate members Edmund "Sonny" Jendrick and Victoria Czaia. Neither could attend tonight. All members who were up for reappointment have been reappointed. Sonny Jendrick is the alternate (votes in case of absence or less than quorum)

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

VanRy Stables site walk. Pete did a site walk with Barry VanRy and pointed out that the materials (brush and fill) was right up to the wetlands. Tim pointed out that the brush and fill was on the wetland ground. Pete said on driveby inspections Mr. VanRy is complying with the complaint and moving the material, slowly. Mr. VanRy did say to Jim Kirsch (Code Inspector) that there was an agricultural exemption for wetland fill materials. Tim checked with Eben Lewis and there is no such exemption.

A review of historic aerial photographs showed that the land around the windmill was clear of trees. The commission cannot do forest management on the land (clear the trees and thin the new growth) because it is not a town forest. It will require a warrant article to allow this work to be done. Dan said that this would be Timber Stand Improvement (TSI), not a logging operation. Paul suggested that we might give Mr. VanRy permission to do maintenance. Pete pointed out that Mr. VanRy isn't concerned about the little trees in the woods, but the large trees that are obstructing the windmill, which would require professional service. The commission can take no action at this time.

SPNHF 2011 monitoring report, Williams, W&M, #4, site walk Charlie Moreno confirms his company managed a cut on Williams #3 and #4, on the Atkinson side of the land. Denise asked if the Commission should be notified for such activity, even if we only hold an easement. There is no clear answer. We still must fill out the report for SPNHF. Review of the materials on Google Maps and the markers set by Denise and Pete showed that Google Map town boundaries are in error.

LCIP report for Caroline Orr town forest. Still pending.

Multiple wells in town are contaminated with 1,4-Dioxane. DES is testing and surveying the area and an aerial photograph is posted in the Town Hall lobby showing the contaminated wells. Hampstead shows no traces. DES is willing to pay to contact homeowners with problems to the Hampstead lines at government expense. They will need to pay the town water bill. DES is still investigating the source of the pollution. The meeting was recorded and has been played many times on ACTV.

Water quality community outreach program through state. Pete had a link to a statewide conference on water sustainability at <http://www.nh.gov/water-sustainability>. The conference is to be held on May 8th.

NH Dam Bureau issues with Rick Schafer's dam. Still open.

Lili Bao, DES complaint active. Denise reported that, with prodding from upper-level DES administrators, the complaint was found and is being investigated.

Land Resources complaint file 2012-0522, Clinton Teague, 6 Industrial Way, Map 16. Lot 53, impacting wetlands w/o permit. No change.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items:

- Minor site plan revision for buildings on Busby site on Rt. 111 to allow for a standard 24-foot lumber size.
- Master Plan update: Board is working on major updates to complete the Master Plan. There will be a publicity campaign to advertise the Plan once it is approved.

Zoning Board Agenda items:

- Variance for Henry Corey sideline reduction, 13 Hemlock Height Road, Map 22 Lot 8, approved.
- Special hearing 5/8/12, appeal of Corey variance. A motion was made and seconded to write a letter from the Conservation Commission approving the variance plan. The motion passed unanimously. Tim will write the letter.
- Procedural changes CSPA → SWQPA (The Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act was repealed in 2011 and reenacted as the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act). A several-paragraph explanation of the approval requirements and URLs will be posted on the Conservation Web Site.
- Potential local procedural changes due to HB 514. The bill wants to ban all government use of data that will plan private lands. The legislature amended the bill to exclude only data on a private land that was gathered without permission and is not public domain and it applies only to Conservation Commissions.

Other Business

East Road fields formally opened as Collins Park.

Issues with new town tax maps: all towns have the same issues.

Update Granite database conservation parcels

Game camera setup for Dan

Trail map mailboxes: new ones are available for the Marshall and Sawyer lands.

Caroline Orr forestry plan, Charlie hopes to resume work on it in about a month.

County champion ash tree in Sawyer town forest will be located.

Sign templates for canoe launch parking berms: Paul has them in safekeeping. May have to install them by Memorial Day.

Perambulation: unless it is an emergency, it will be done outside of tick season.

Meet/interview invasive plant control contractors: unsure if Ted will provide a new contractor for this.

Meeting with Town Administrator June 20th, 1PM to discuss using town maintenance personnel for trail work, We need an inventory of major parcels and needs for trails. town firewood program, other agenda items? Tim would like to talk to Trailwrights about their experience with trail heavy equipment.

Grants available for town trails: State Parks and Recreation has trail funds available. June 8th is the deadline. Pete will review with the Town Administrator.

Letter out to Sumner on timber tax question. Barbara sent a copy of the Timber Tax Law which does not mention the municipal exemption. Sumner is researching it.

Letter out to Sumner on cross-town conservation parcels: there was some confusion about taxes between Plaistow and Atkinson. There are laws in place that municipalities do not have to tax each other's land. Sumner is researching this. (Dispute with Plaistow over Hanson parcel)

Community outreach: tree saplings from county extension, fish stocking, conservation camps? Paul remembered that on Arbor Day the Conservation Commission gave away saplings at the Town Hall. There is also the possibility of getting trout for the town pond. Clipping in paper: E Kingston sponsoring students to go to the Barry Summer Conservation Camp. We could sponsor.

Other new business:

Paul said that the Energy Commission is to map all poles that have street lights. They want to borrow our GPS to conduct the survey. Tim said yes.

Pete brought up the **tick sign issue**. He will research costs and signage, and talk to Atkinson Parks and Recreation where signs might be appropriate.

Town forester and tree warden - defer

Bylaws and land use rules- defer

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, June 4, at 7:00 PM

Internal Business

Secretary report: A motion was made to approve the March 2012 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. A motion was made to approve the April 2012 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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.

Private session was closed at 9:50 by motion that passed unanimously by the five members present. Acclimation to seal was made by unanimous vote of the five members present..

The meeting adjourned at 9:56.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay