

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
March 4, 2013
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:05.

Attending:

Victoria Czaia
Tim Dziechowski
Dan Kimball
Pete McVay
Paul Wainwright

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items:

2/6/13 workshop

- Tim Lavelle, **conceptual presentation of a site plan for Industrial Drive.**
There will have to be further meetings because of many details: buffer zone access, terms of use and right of way, and others.
- **Brown family trust**, conceptual presentation of a site plan for a cluster subdivision at the Page farm (Map 13, Lots 21, 26). Six and eight single-family homes were presented on a new road behind Page's Lane. Paige Brown has sent a letter to the town asking if interested parties would consider purchasing 15 acres in the "scenic view" zone for preservation. This idea has been discussed in many other groups and was circulated to the Conservation Commission members present. The major issue for such a purchase is the high cost, since the land is in a prime location. Citizens at the Visioning meeting last year specifically expressed an interest in preserving the farm and view, and the Brown family wish to preserve as much of the view as possible. This interest might be enough to campaign to raise funds to purchase the land, find a white knight, or set in motion a plan to designate the area as a Heritage Fund land. No specific group has come forward to spearhead the project.

Zoning Board Agenda items:

- Need to set up **landowner permission slips** in the planning office so the Commission can legally do site walks.

Dredge and Fills/Site Walks/Complaints

No action on the following four items:

- **Letter from DES** dated 11/13/12 about file 2009-2278 (Osborn). The Osborns have done nothing to address the deficiencies and have until 1/12/13 to file a wetlands permit application and restoration plan for 8 Valcat Lane
- **Wells contaminated** with 1,4-Dioxane. Pete noted that the Town Administrator met with the staff of Representative Annie Kuster during office hours to bring the Dioxane issue to Rep. Kuster's attention, since the EPA is involved in plans and funds for the cleanup operation.
- **Lili Bao**, DES complaint active
- **Land Resources complaint file** 2012-0522, Clinton Teague, 6 Industrial Way, Map 16 Lot 53, impacting wetlands without permit

Other Business

- **Trail signs/tick warning signs:** Pete sent an email in January about signs on the Sawyer Land placed by the Rockingham County Conservation Commission, made by Voss Signs. The signs were heavy-gauge plastic that should last for years. Checking the web site gave an estimated cost of \$2.00 each for similar signage for Conservation boundaries. Another possibility was Minuteman Signs, which charges \$1.09 for custom signs plus a one-time \$8.00 setup fee. Tim also recommended that we contact scout Ryan DiMattia concerning his tick sign project. Several examples of signs are on the web, but there seems to be no "standard" warning sign offered by any supplier. We could design our own, and scout DiMattia could be informed that some funding is available to cover the production costs of his project, once completed. Pete will send email to Ryan.
- **NH Fish & Game Blanding turtle survey:** Fish and Game has asked if they could do a Blanding's Turtle survey. Approximately ten years ago, Blanding's Turtles were reported in Atkinson but no reports have been updated since then. The Commission gave its consent to do the survey.
- **2013 bills of interest** from LGC legislative bulletins [legend: *OTP*: Ought to Pass, *ITL*: Inexpedient to Legislate, *OTPWA*: Ought to Pass With Amendment(s)]. Pete noted that these bills and their status can be easily determined at the *Legiscan* web site (<http://legiscan.com/NH>):
 - HB 347, Allow cottage housing as innovative land use – OTP
 - HB 436, Allow selectmen to manage libraries – ITL
 - HB 198, Allow GPS data in perambulation reports – OTPWA
 - HB 144, Ban participation in ICLEI (Agenda 21) – ITL
 - HB 113, Allow building permits on private/Class 6 roads – OTPWA
 - SB 102, Allow elected conservation commissions – ITL
 - SB 12, Master plan can protect archeological sites – OTP
 - SB 50, Variances and special exceptions expire in two years unless extended – OTPWA
- **Caroline Orr forestry plan** - Need update from Charlie Moreno.
- Land projects:
 - Working on **documenting history of cross-town lots** on the Plaistow town line, to share info with Plaistow
 - **Northwest passage:** no update
 - **Southeast passage:** no update
 - **Lean-to shed at town garage** for storage: no update
 - **DRED grant** for trail upgrades across swamps at state line: reported on the trail site walk. The trail will be moved about 60 feet north, to avoid (1) possible impingement on private land to the south; (2) utilize a trail that has already been made for skidding, and (3) go into a drier area. We need to plan for two culvert crossings and one turnpike trail, using geotextile fabric and pack as determined by the Road Agent. Pete needs to file a wetlands permit and research any other required paperwork. A motion was made to allow Pete to expend some of our professional services funds, not to exceed 60% of the professional services allocation, to get a soil scientist to review the plans. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
 - Issues with **new town tax maps** – defer
 - Update Granite database conservation parcels – defer
 - **Perambulation** – defer
 - **Invasive plant control options** – defer
- Other new business: budgeted \$500 for a recording clerk. There is a candidate available who is also doing recording for other town committees and is highly recommended.

Internal Business

Secretary report: A motion was made to approve the February 2013 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: An updated report has been received and is retained by the Commission Chair.

Other:

- **Town forester** - defer
- **Bylaws and land use rules**- defer
- **End of year 2012 bills:** 10 pack of sheet acrylic for trailhead signs delivered

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, April 1st, at 7:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay