

# Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission

## July 1, 2013

### Atkinson Town Hall

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

**Attending:**

Tim Dziechowski  
Dan Kimball  
Denise Legault  
Pete McVay

**Guest Business and Plan Reviews:**

- **Peter Graziano**, Eagle Scout trail project. Peter presented the draft of his Eagle Scout Project. He proposed a learning trail with points of interest in the Pope Land Reserve. He would do a survey of the area, document special features, and prepare trail guides and signage. The Commission members recommended certain historical points, such as "Indian Rock", be included and Peter had already noted that feature. Peter also asked if the Commission could defray the cost of special materials. Tim responded that the Commission has funds for that purpose and also a stock of sign and post materials. Tim also recommended that Peter get approval for the project from the Selectmen, since the conservation area borders non-conservation lands and this could avoid any problems with those lands. Peter will contact the Town Administrator to get the item on the Selectmen's agenda. A motion was made and seconded to approve the scout project and the motion passed unanimously.
- Charlie Zilch of SEC & Associates for **Daniel Young**, conservation recommendation on a variance for an addition within the 100' wetland setback at 2 Pheasant Lane, Map 7 Lot 19. Mr. Young wants to add a mother-in-law extension and garage over the existing driveway and add additional septic for the extension. The edge of the extension is approximately 45 feet from the closest wetland swale in the back of the house and a waiver is sought from the ZBA. Tim noted that these swales were originally farm ditches and became wetlands when the houses were built in the area in the 1950s. Also, a similar variance was granted to a home on Blueberry Lane on the opposite side of the same wetland. A motion was made to write a letter to the ZBA that the Conservation Commission recommends approval of the waiver. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints**

No updates

**Conservation Easements / Land Purchases**

No updates

**Review of Correspondence**

eMail from **Dave Paquette**. He plans to walk the conservation trails this summer with an ACTV camera, and feels that the resulting video would be enhanced by conservation commission participation and editing.. Dan Kimball and Pete McVay volunteered to assist when the project is finalized.

**Planning Board Agenda Items, 19 June meeting:**

- Public hearing for revisions to update soils based lot sizing to current standards (site plan and subdivision regs), continued
- Ongoing master plan revisions

- Application for site plan revision to reduce buffer setbacks at Dearborn Ridge development from 100' to 50', continued. Tim had recommended that the homeowner apply for a variance instead, since the setback issue applied only to a single home in the development. This item will be withdrawn if the variance is approved.

#### **Zoning Board Agenda items:**

- 5/8/13 meeting - Feedback letters for Murphy and Hawkins
- 7/10/13 meeting - Buffer setback variance for Nicole Duquette, Dearborn Ridge, Map 19 Lot 18-110. This is a request in response to the site plan revision of the Planning Board.

#### **Other Business**

- Senate Bill 102 (option to elect conservation commissions) voted ITL (inexpedient to legislate) and by convention, will not pass.
- Registry of deed surcharges restored to LCHIP program
- Blanding turtle project, email from Chris Bogard about Southeast Land Trust interest in preserving Sawmill Swamp. Tim will follow up with the Commission's interest in exploring options with the Trust.
- Tick warning signs, 3 options:
  - Use CDC signs (free in small quantities). Pete had already ordered the free 200 signs which should be delivered shortly.
  - Have Voss print Pete's sign
  - Have Voss reprint MA DPH sign (saves artwork setup charges). Pete didn't know there was a sign available and will contact Voss to see if it can be used without the MA heading.
- Canoe launch
  - Berm damage: the berm was damaged by the plow during the winter. Ted reset the berm.
  - Parking conflicts: no action will be taken unless a complaint is received that someone could not launch because the lot was full. So far there have been no major parking violations on the lot and access has been easy.
  - Launch repairs: Ted has ordered parts to repair the launch dock.
- DRED grant for trail upgrades in Sawyer town forest
  - Wetlands plan from Kevin Hatch: still pending and Pete needs this done for trail completion. Several other engineers were recommended.
  - DES minimum impact wetlands permit for trail upgrade using plan. Same problem as with wetlands plan.
  - Trail work using town road crew/volunteers: completed week of June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Submit bills and grant paperwork: TBD
  - Ted will drop mulch from the Pope Road supply on the trail, and the Commission will solicit trail volunteers to spread the mulch evenly.
- Recommendation to selectmen for tree warden: no update
- Caroline Orr forestry plan, no update
- Town forest list update, map, rules, bow hunting: no update
- Town tax map errors/updates - Tim to review maps with Barbara Snicer.
- Need to get DES to update our prime wetlands to add Wright Farm Pond
- Camp Barry reservations have opened, need to reach out to scout leadership about the camper we are sponsoring
- 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
- Acrylic for trail signs is in the planning office and needs to be moved to Dan's shop
- Update Granite database conservation parcels - defer
- Perambulation - defer
- Invasive plant control options - defer

### **Internal Business**

**Secretary report:** deferred

**Treasurer's report:** deferred

**Other:**

- Alternate member Sonny Jendrick may start attending meetings
- Alternate member Victoria Czaia has resigned due to a work conflict, The Commission informally agreed not to accept resignation until replacements could be found. Pete noted that since there was no age limit on membership, perhaps a high school student who is a resident of Atkinson could fill the slot. It would provide valuable training in citizenship.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, August 5th, at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay