

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
August 5, 2013
Atkinson Town Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:06.

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Dan Kimball
Denise Legault
Pete McVay
Paul Wainwright

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Dave Paquette presented a video of a walkthrough of the Sawyer Land in June. He requested some assistance from the Conservation Commission to add editing and narration for the video for use on the Atkinson Community Television (ACC) station. Dave (and members of the Commission) noted that the trails and trail markers are deteriorating and several trails are nearly impassable. The video might serve to kindle interest in supporting an effort to improve Atkinson's trail system. Pete noted that the recent trail grant only improved about five percent of the total Sawyer Trail system, and that only approximately 15 to 20 percent of the Sawyer trail system is useable. Tim noted that trails should be set according to potential use: walking, cycling, equestrian, etc. Dan commented that 50 years ago, trails were available throughout the town because of logging and farm access, and that purpose has largely vanished. Denise noted that the Master Plan and town Visioning Committee had included trail and recreation land maintenance as one of the major goals in town planning. As a first step, Pete will review the video and prepare a script and editing draft, with Dave Paquette, Paul Wainwright, and Dan Kimball assisting.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items:

- July 17th meeting: a preliminary development plan for Page Farm (Gordon Brown's estate) was presented, showing that housing will be in the back area, over the hill crest, minimizing change to the current vista from Main Street. The plan calls for single housing family homes.
- Master Plan revisions are ongoing
- Soil-based lot sizing discussion is ongoing, with a plan based on technical and rather complex soil analysis.

Zoning Board Agenda items:

July 10th Meeting: variance granted for buffer setback for Nicole Duquette, Dearborn Ridge, Map 19 Lot 18-110. The modified site plan for this request was withdrawn, based on the variance granted.

Other Business

Upcoming events

- Electronic recycling at Winfield Alloy on Route 111 Saturday 8/17 8 AM - 12 PM
- Plaistow MBTA extension, public feedback meeting at Plaistow town hall, Thursday 8/22 at 7 PM

Other Business

- The committee discussed the front entrance to the Sawyer Town Forest and voted to install a gate to the entrance. A motion was made to purchase and install a gate at the entrance to the Sawyer Town Forest, not to exceed \$500. The committee voted to approve the motion.
- **Tick warning signs:** Pete received a quote from Voss Signs and will get an invoice to order 50 plastic signs for land posting, at a cost of \$282.50.
- **Caroline Orr forestry plan:** no update
- **Canoe launch repairs:** Denise and Pete had independently examined the launch site, and Ted has repaired the ramp damage. After the pond is drained in the fall the dock can be permanently repaired.
- **DRED grant for trail upgrades in Sawyer town forest:** Although all materials have been ordered and are in place, final grading and surface mulching needs to be completed. Also, paperwork and billing needs to be completed. The DES minimum impact wetlands permit must be filed and all invoices and grant reports must be completed by September 30th. Pete is in charge of completing the necessary paperwork.
- Ted Stewart has been appointed **tree warden** for a three-year term.
- **Town forest list update, map, rules, bow hunting:** Tim is preparing a plan to be reviewed by the Commission for the September meeting.
- **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.
- 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
 - State land at East Road, may be available. Carol Grant is working to obtain the back part of this land from the state. The only cost to obtain joint ownership with the Conservation Commission would be the engineering and filing fees. The Commission gave unofficial approval for the project, pending completion of details such as cost, terms, and agreements with the state.
- Bill Innes would support adding a lean-to shed at town garage for Conservation storage.
- Acrylic for trail signs is in the planning office and needs to be moved to Dan's shop

Internal Business

Secretary's report: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 2013 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, September 9th, at 7:30. Note that the time has been changed to accommodate work schedules and commuting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay