

**Campton Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2009; 7:00 pm**

Members Present:

Jess Halm, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, Jane Kellogg, Jules Doner, Tammy Wooster

**1) Approval of October Minutes:**

Jane made a motion to accept the minutes from last months meeting. Melissa seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**2) PCP**

**a. Shed/ Other Work:**

A work day was set for November 21<sup>st</sup>, at 10 am at the PCP. Work will include raising the shed off the ground and setting it on cinder blocks that are on site. Jess proposed that we also determine the unknown corner boundary and mark it with a stake/pipe, and have the deed with us for reference. Jules will bring a measuring tape and sledge hammer. Melissa will bring a piece of pipe, and Tammy will bring some boards for stabilizing the shed floor. Jane will call the Lanes to make sure they will be around and confirm with the CC by e-mail. A backup date will be Sunday 11/22 at 3:00 pm.

**b. Forester Information:**

Jess compiled a list of seven local foresters to contact for timber management/trail maintenance consultation. Ian Halm narrowed the list down to 3 of the most reputable, all of whom Jess will contact.

**c. Driveway Entrance:**

Jules spoke with Butch and asked if he could move some large stones to create a 16' wide driveway entrance. Some grading work is also needed and Butch assured Jules that his crews will begin as soon as they are available. Jules said that if fill is needed, it can be paid for with Conservation funds if necessary.

**d. Winter Maintenance:**

Jane reported that while recently driving past the Blanchard House, she noticed a possible broken or displaced window pane. This will be looked into on the 11/21 workday and if needed the window will be boarded up from the inside. Someone will have to get the Blanchard House key from Ann Marie.

**e. Mowing:**

Jules had no new information pertaining to mowing cost estimates. Melissa suggested that we send a notice to abutters in the spring letting them know that we only plan to mow a perimeter path next year. We will also make mention of this in the Annual Report.

### **3. BWNA:**

#### a. Sign Progress/Installation:

Tammy has been working on the sanding and painting of the new BWNA sign and showed a picture of the progress. Jane has been working on the sign permit paperwork. All agreed that the 11/21 work day would be a good time to put the sign up.

#### b. Arrive at BWNA Project cost total for Leah:

Melissa unveiled the BWNA card set that she had printed from her photo collection. The set includes different images with some text describing the picture and a reference to our website. Melissa reported that the printing costs totaled \$93.50 including the envelopes. Jane gave Melissa a receipt for sign spray paint and metal purchases totaling \$31.87. Tammy said that she forgot her paint/stain receipt but recalled the amount being around \$30, and she would confirm by e-mail to Melissa. These costs will be covered through Leah's donation.

Everyone thanked Melissa for her beautiful work and expressed excitement over the potential uses for the cards. This led to a discussion about what to do with the cards now that they are finished. All agreed that although they were created to be used as Thank You Notes, they have the potential for education, outreach and raising awareness of the BWNA. Everyone liked the idea of displaying the cards for sale at local area businesses but the question of whether they can be used to generate funds was raised. Jane came up with the idea of asking for a suggested donation rather than selling them outright. Melissa will research the feasibility of selling the cards and begin by contacting Carol Andrews from the NHACC. Three cards were passed around and signed as Thank you notes for Leah, Ron Reynolds, and Craig Keeney.

#### c. Winter Maintenance:

Melissa unearthed the parking area sign cable in preparation for winter closing of the lot. Jane mentioned that she noticed people going off trail and using a previously obstructed shortcut to cut down the bank toward the Pemi. A "stay to the right" sign would remedy the problem and prevent future erosion. All agreed that this would be a good spring trail project.

### **4. Wetland Restoration Project Brainstorming:**

Jane explained how Aquatic Restoration Mitigation or "ARM" funds are accrued through fines imposed for wetland disturbances that are not properly mitigated. Currently these funds total approximately \$150,000 and will become available in 2010 for Pemi watershed wetland restoration projects. Funds may be released to individual landowners as well as towns and organizations. Ideas discussed were the Beebe River ATV crossing and Bog Pond. Jane suggested that perhaps Butch Bain may know of some wetland disturbance due to road building. Other individuals who may have land conservation projects were discussed as possibilities.

Jess reiterated that we should all be thinking of possible ways to utilize this funding source and be spreading the word.

Lastly, Jane emphasized that the description for wetland protection is a broad one and that funds may be applied to protect an upland area affecting a downstream wetland.

## **5. Groundwater Protection Update:**

Tammy reported that she and Jane attended a recent SelectBoard meeting along with Gary Benedix and Pierce Rigrod from DES. Pierce summarized the Groundwater Reclassification process for the Board and explained how reclassification serves to protect Campton's stratified drift aquifer. Questions focused mostly on who is responsible for the inspection and enforcement duties of the program, and what kind of restrictions on business activity and/or future development may result. Pierce responded that it's up to the town to decide who does what but typically the reclassification process is completed by the Water District with assistance from the Planning Board, Health Officer, CC members or other volunteers. Pierce also explained that the program is education/outreach based and merely reinforces already restricted activities. Pierce thanked the Board for their time and left them with some fact sheets and contact information.

Tammy said that she had since received several e-mails from Pierce relative to completing the reclassification application. Pierce specifically requested that the CCC complete the Potential Contamination Sources Inventory as part of the application and sent lengthy supporting documentation for this procedure. Pierce also offered the assistance of a newly hired employee Nick Sceggel from Granite State Rural Water. Tammy suggested that we schedule a work session to begin the PCS Inventory and that we would need to gather some information from the tax maps. Melissa offered to hold a work session at her home so that we could work on a laptop with wireless internet. All agreed that an upcoming late afternoon/evening would work best. Tammy will contact Pierce to let him know that we agree to complete the inventory and ask for assistance from Nick. Tammy will also ask Gary to attend our work session.

## **6. GIS**

### **a. Set date for spring workshop:**

Jane said that May was enthusiastic about the idea of holding a GIS workshop with the CC. It was decided not to set a date at this time, but Jess will ask May if she has a preference. Tammy reminded the group that we should have a specific project in mind to provide a focus for the work session.

### **b. GRANIT info:**

Jane reported that she and Ron have been working on the forms for updating the GRANIT database to include the BWNA and PCP. Jane also checked with the Squam Lakes Conservation Society to inquire about whether the SE part of town's Conservation lands are part of GRANIT. She learned that the lands have been submitted for inclusion, but are not yet posted.

## **7. Town Meeting Pre-Prep/Annual Report:**

Some ideas for what to include in the Annual report were discussed. Jess said that work on the report will begin after the December minutes are complete so that the entire year's minutes can be used for

reference. Jess said that another noteworthy item would be to honor Lisa's service to the Commission. We will also announce that we are still looking for new members.

The group mentioned noticing that the Chamber of Commerce sign announcing the pumpkin carving contest referred to the PCP as the Pattee Estate. All agreed that a formal notification of the proper name should be in the Annual Report.

## **8. FYI:**

a. Wetland Permit: Jess and Melissa recently reviewed a wetland permit for a driveway culvert on Ellsworth Hill which was deemed to be standard.

As an aside, Melissa shared a conversation she had with a Campton resident who was concerned about some logging activity that he alleged to be occurring very close to the West Branch of the Pemi. He asked about setback distances and who was responsible for enforcement. Jules said he thought the setback was 25' from the river. Jane mentioned that an "Intent to Cut" notice should be posted identifying the logger, and that DRED was responsible for enforcement. She also said that if an intent to cut notice was filed, that Ann Marie would have knowledge of it. Jess said that the BMP for logging near the river would be to leave the slash in place for nutrient retention and erosion control.

b. 2010 Budget Hearing:

Melissa reported that she met with the SelectBoard to present the proposed CC budget and that the only change recommended was to keep the Misc. line item the same as last year. Our total budget for 2010 is \$1,125.00.

Melissa mentioned that Marsh Morgan advised the CC not to be complacent about the upcoming warrant article to transfer Pattee House sale proceeds back into the Conservation Fund. He said that in a lean year it is likely there will be some opposition. The group expressed surprise as we were all under the impression that the transfer of funds would be a housekeeping issue. It was decided to write an article for the Record Enterprise at Town meeting time to educate the public about the issue.

c. NHACC Conference:

Neither Tammy nor Jules were able to attend the conference.

c. Planning Board/PRLAC:

Jane reported PRLAC news earlier in the meeting relative to ARM funds. A Planning Board update included news of complaints about a gravel pit area along Route 3, the owner of which claims he intends on putting a building on the site.

As an aside, Jane passed around a document written by Annie Bartlett who was hired by Tom Howard to produce some marketing materials. The document contained comments from Jane relative to past conservation land dealings the CCC had with Tom. Annie was requesting the use of Jane's positive remarks in the outreach materials. Jane asked the group to review her remarks and a few minor edits were made.

d. Stream Crossing Rules Public Hearing: No CC members attended no update.

e. Eastern Corners Steep Driveway:

Jane and Jess revisited the site and reported that there were continuing concerns about the steep driveway. Most of the concerns are relative to a lack of bank stabilization/erosion control, and the high maintenance required to keep culverts/silt ponds clear. Jane passed around a follow up letter she drafted and said that she wanted to refer to a previous letter written by Lisa before sending this one but could not locate a copy in the CC files. Jules suggested calling Lisa to ask her if she still had a copy. While Jane called Lisa, CC members reviewed the letter and Jess had comments that she said she would send to Jane later. Lisa confirmed that she still had an electronic copy and would post the letter along with other CC files on a PSU web sharing site available only to those who have a link. Jane will follow up and complete the letter.

f. Upcoming events:

On Thursday, Nov 12, 2009 from 2-4 pm, NRCS will host an informational meeting on easement programs. The meeting will be held at the Grafton County Extension Office, No. Haverhill

**Meeting Adjourned 9:10 pm**  
**Next Meeting Wed., Dec 9, 2009; 7pm**