

Campton Conservation Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, April 5th, 2023
7pm, Campton Municipal Building
Chair: Jess Halm

Commissioners in Attendance: Jane Kellogg, Jim Butler, Bill Copeland, Shannon Garnsey and Janet Lucas

Public in Attendance: Clint Lane, Peggy Martin, Dean Johnston, Denis Seraco, Shane Johnston and Nate Grace

1. Welcome, Introductions

Jess Halm called the meeting to order at 6:58pm and outlined the meeting focus. Each Commissioner introduced themselves. New commissioner, Janet Lucas, was welcomed to her first Conservation Commission Meeting. Each visitor introduced themselves.

2. March minutes. Jane moved to approve. Shannon seconded. Commission Passed.

3. Management of Campton's Conservation Lands
(the order of properties was changed, with a discussion of WBBF first

a. Blair Woodland Natural Area

- * New 911 address (1448 US Rt 3)
- * Parking area will be opened soon once the ice/snow is gone. Jane will take care of.
- * Kiosk signage: Jim to print and will coordinate with Jane in getting them up. Includes a map, bird list, tree & shrub list, and a plant list. Jane also has a poster (birds of NH) to install.
- * Updated trail guide needed: Jess and Denise Seraco will get this going and plan to work on this in the summer months.
- * Other: D. Seraco reported there is not a lot of trail debris to clean up.

b. Pattee Conservation Park (381 NH Rt 175)

- * Annual 5K for Veterans held in Nov; Sponsors took good care of property.
- * Forest management plan: Needed. Jess reports that pine is well priced right now. Jess suggests putting it back on the agenda in the fall.
- * Plantings: Jim reviewed what was done last year: Planted bushes in front of fence, donated tree at corner of property; Jane planted daffodils near the corner sign. Suggestion that the bushes need to be better staked for visibility and protection (in late fall) prior to snowmobile season.
- * Liberty Tree maintenance w/ CGC: due for feeding and maintenance work. C Lenehan had provided notice of recent communication with the arborist.
- * Mowing of fields: done every two years. Due this year after the blueberry season. CCC to get quotes. C Lane said he has the equipment to do it and was encouraged to submit a quote.
- * Other Pattee:

C Lane brings up old stone wall clearing and rebuilding along Blair Rd. from his property east toward 175. He offered to do the work as he has time, at his own expense. Questions and discussion about how he'd do it, equipment needed, etc. Timing: as he has time. No herbicides to be used. If unforeseen things come up, he will contact the Commission. Consensus was to let C Lane go ahead with wall work as he can. He will continue mowing trails for us.

Clint Lane also mentioned that pulling up pines that we did in late Fall (Youth Service Project) greatly improved the property. This should be a maintenance item as part of our annual clean up day (or another youth project).

Clint also mentioned that the fence around the Liberty Tree is weak. He has put many slats back into place. The Commission should take a look to assess for next steps.

c. West Branch Brook Forest (2187 US Rt 3)

* multi-use trail concerns.

Review easement language allowing snowmobiling.

Concerns/comments re multi-use via the Selectman's office regarding sharing trails with snowmobiles, more walkers. D Johnston reported having no complaints from snowmobilers.

Discussion about weekend snowmobile use being the heaviest traffic on trail. Working on clear signage during winter.

Jess reported her conversation with neighbor and private property owner M Johnston, regarding a horse rider and people harvesting greens on his private property. We discussed the need for better property boundaries, and clear markings when entering private property. Options discussed like signage at the sides of the trail, putting a chain across (although chance of hurting wildlife and need to take down in the winter for snowmobiles). CCC plans to install signage when crossing into the private property, with instructions to please stay on the trail.

* Gate installation for the parking lot will be this spring, on May 6 or 7. Jane will check with Craig Keeney and will get three posts and concrete ordered and delivered from Ashland Lumber just prior to installation.

* Bench installation: reviewed plans to make, and will install sometime in May at locations designed on signage map.

* Signage: Jim showed the full-size current draft. To be printed on a plastic type material and laminated or on metal. Preference for the plastic. Ready for Megaprint to make. Could install any time in April. Peggy gave a few suggestions.

* Roofing for the new kiosk: Hope to do this in April. Bill, Jane, etc will coordinate. Gray shingles donated by Ashland Lumber. Need roofing nails.

* Vernal Pool: Peggy Martin reported that egg laying activity (wood frogs and salamanders) typically between April 22 and May 10; and historically there is one big night (dark & rainy), but not every year. She proposed posting a sign at the vernal pool with notes about what has been seen there, by date, that she would enter after each visit. Jess suggested a clipboard with a laminated sheet with a pen. Other ideas were proposed for a longer term

solution (reference science stations at school). Will try a temporary idea for this year. Jess will help her get it set up.

Peggy suggested dates to lead a vernal pool walk. Commission settles on May 13th at 10 AM (rain or shine); If a big group, can be split into two with a commissioner leading. This should be promoted on Facebook page, web site and other social media; Poster/Flyer?

* other WBBF: Dollar amounts for the expenses of signage printing, gate posts, roofing nails, combo locks, etc will be presented at May 3 meeting for reimbursement.

* winter plowing: Well done this year. Discussion about future plowing - unknown. Hope things will continue next year. Town does not mind, as this is close to normal plowing they do. The new gate can be temporarily closed if commissioners deem the parking lot too icy and/or muddy.

4. Invasives Eradication/Education:

Jim reports some towns/people have mentioned an issue with Japanese Knotweed. Is it possible to at least survey how much there is and where from the roads? We could put it into the GIS system with the town.

Janet had asked Corey about this and he was positive if we provide the coordinates. He is in the process of working with Jade on this.

Jess suggested that other invasive species, like Bittersweet and Purple Loosestrife, should be looked at.

Jim talked about education for ourselves and others on invasive species. He reported that NH DOT has people trained to eradicate and that there are now 3 trained people in District 3 to work with this issue. They are working with the Town of Meredith on this problem. Many steps toward doing things right. Jim also suggested that we partner with others to help us. These include NH Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, NH DES, etc.

Jim made a motion to establish a subcommittee on Invasives, but focus on Japanese Knotweed this year. The goals would be to survey the areas and scope of the problem, bring in others to educate us (i.e. state resources, master gardeners), and identify potential partnerships and resources to deal with the problem. Jess seconds. Janet, Jim and Bill volunteer to be the sub-committee. Rebecca (absent) will be invited also. Motion passes.

5. Upcoming Conferences/Workshops:

- 1) Saving Special Places : April 15 in Alton.
- 2) NH DES Wetlands seminar. Bill and Janet have been viewing online sessions. Commissioners should watch for NHACC fall conference dates.

6. Shoreland Protection Workshop, in partnership with Thornton CC, is scheduled June 9 at 2 PM at the WMNF HQ off Blair Road. We will reach out to borrow the letter that TCC sends to

shoreline abutters and will modify and send to Campton owners abutting shoreline. Jane will follow up with TCC and get Campton homeowner addresses for a mailing.

Spring Road Cleanup (Blair Road and along 175) - Jess, Bill and Jane will make it happen.

7. Incoming Mail: None

8. Any old business:

1) wildlife camera on WBBF: discussion about whether to remove and leave note. We should first check to see if it's still there.

2) Two alternate commission spaces are open

3) Jim has spoken to Corey and Dan about options for our document storage. The town will be migrating to Microsoft 365 and One Drive. We could have access to that to avoid personal storage issues with our CCC docs (which reside on individual personal space currently). More to come.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 3rd, 7pm. Shannon to Chair