

Campton Conservation Commission
Minutes
Dec. 6, 2024
7:00pm, Campton Municipal Building
Chair: Jane Kellogg

Present: Jane Kellogg, Jim Butler, Janet Lucas, Hope Eagleson (newest member!), Rebecca Steeves (minutes), Bill Copeland; Jess Halm, with Steve Shaughnessy and Ian Halm present.

1. Approve November minutes - Bill made a motion to approve, Janet seconded - approved.
2. PCP Forestry Management Plan - Forester Steve Shaughnessy in attendance. Steve will get us an invoice for \$800 to be paid from the Conservation Fund for the plan that he has delivered to us. Janet made a motion to approve \$800 once the invoice is received, Bill seconded - approved.

Review plan received from Shaughnessy dated Nov. 20 - Jane led a discussion about the plan - age and status of trees, info about the soil, stability of the trees, etc. Hope asked about the history of logging on the property, that is unclear. Jane asked about any plant/animal species of concern that might be present on the property, not an issue. Some discussion about the age of trees there, and the 5 options that were presented.

The general consensus is the Sheltercut option, which will remove most of the trees, leaving select healthy mature trees. The seeds (in the pinecones) are in year 7 of their cycle, so lots of seeds will be dropped for regrowth.

Jess made a motion to choose the Shelterwood harvest option, Jim seconded - approved.

The next step would be to contact a few loggers and maybe we could get a better deal to have it done in the spring (mud season).

Next steps - we need to file an Intent to Cut, there will be a timber tax paid by the harvester (Steve can meet with the logger to determine board feet for tax purposes). Steve recommended having the logger pay us for overall stumpage, and they will take care of trucking and mill logistics for us. We need to give Steve a contract that we are employing him as our forester; he will mark the trees and prep them for a logger to assess. He will get a contract to us and we will meet to review, prior to our January meeting.

(Steve would get 10% of the mill price, or 20% of the stumpage price.)

Discuss options, questions re Step 2

Next steps? Jane mentioned that is is recommended by NHACC that we hold a public hearing - inviting abutting property owners as well.

3. Property Updates:
 - a. PCP

Veterans' Day 5 K race - all good!

b. BWNA

Parking closed for winter: (Jane) - due to snow.

Trail Guide: (Jess) - Jess is working with Denise, who forwarded her some documents to review. Jess will forward the email with Denise's work to commissioners.

Jane received a few items from Leah Gray's estate - there was a photo of Leah next to the sign with her trail on it, along with documents associated with donating the land to the town. Jane will put them in our files.

c. WBBF

Stakes placed for winter plowing (Jim) - look great, thanks Jim!

\$36 reimbursement to Jane for stakes (pending budget review) - Jane had a receipt and Jim made a motion, Hope seconded - approved.

Snowmobile signage - snowmobile club does not have pre-made signs, but have blanks they could give us to use and write what we want; the sign could say "Increased Foot Traffic" or "Active Snowmobile Trail" - and we could use a temporary one, but we hope there is a more permanent sign put up.

Winter tracking event: discuss, schedule? - Jess will email Lea about a date, we will invite town employees to attend. Hope is also a certified tracker and can help. Jan/Feb date most likely.

PBLT was out walking the property today - Janet joined them; they liked the benches, kiosk, permanent signage, etc. One suggestion was to check the stewardship agreement about guidelines for additional trails.

4. Invasives Subcommittee Report (Janet, Jim, Bill)

2023 Town Report page - they are working on a 2-page info sheet to go into the report, focusing on Japanese knotweed. Graphics stage now. Once that is set, it will be shared with full commission for comments, prior to a January submittal to Town.

5. New Business

a. Short reports from attendees to NHACC workshop (Jim, Janet) - Janet mentioned a workshop about health connections to climate change that she attended; Little Big Forest about town property that was acquired in Stoddard; a NRI workshop about creating a rating system for value of town land. Jim will share a link to the WAP and it has some new public info that might be helpful.

b. CCC 2023 Report for Town Report: due January TBD. Who will start a draft for circulation? - Janet has started drafting and will circulate before the Jan. meeting.

c. "Conservation in Campton" presentation at CHS 11/20: review, discuss questions and comments made - it was great and Jane thanked everyone for the recognition! Currently in editing and will then be put on the Conservation web site.

d. Finance update, LUCT (Jim) - reviewed recent expenses, conference, posts, cutting, signs; town determined amount that is owed to the fund from earlier year; as a protocol, in the Jan. following a year, the LUCT amount from that previous year will be given to CF. The fund is not making interest, so Jim will look into other options. Jane made a motion to determine from

the town (Nancy Martin) the investment options available for money from the CF; Hope seconded - approved. Janet made a motion to appoint Jim as the treasurer of the commission, Jess seconded - approved.

e. OneDrive demo and migration plan to move from Google Docs (Jim) - he showed us the folders and docs that are already switched over to OneDrive; the date for all migration (shut down of Google Docs) - date TBD. Watch for an email to get link to drive and then verification process.

6. Old Business/FYI

1) Website: Intent to Cut section

2) Previous commissioners list on website? (Jess) - the list will remain in our files for reference, but will not be posted on the web site.

3) Barry Camp update on steps to take (Rebecca, Shannon) - Rebecca will check with Shannon on any updates.

4) Campton Pond: Pros and Cons list (Jess) - dredging would likely be good for trout, but would potentially not be good for turtles and other wildlife. Jess will follow up with Dan about ideas from the group.

5) Thank you notes (Jim) - Jane found some at home and will put them in our cabinet. Need envelopes for them. Hope will look for them at Staples and get 25/30.

6) NH State Parks Recreational Trails Program Grants (Jane) - These grants don't seem like the right fit for our ideas.

7) Request from National Youth Delegate candidate from Littleton - We can contribute personally, but decided not to contribute commission money.

8) Other Old business

7. Other

8. Mail

Next meeting: Jan. 4, 2024 Janet to Chair

Adjourned at 9:31pm.