

Campton Conservation Commission
Minutes

February 7, 2024, 7:00pm
Campton Municipal Building

Join Zoom Meeting-Meeting ID: 868 3288 5185

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86832885185>

Call in by phone 1-929-436-2866

Chair: Jess Halm; Jim Butler, Rebecca Steeves, Bill Copeland, Hope Eagleson, Janet Lucas, Jane Kellogg (via Zoom). Also present: Clement Lane (abutter), Steve Shaughnessy (forester), Terry Lawson (abutter), Cindy Medieros (neighbor).

Called to order at 7:00pm.

1. Approve 12/19/23 and 1/03/24 minutes – Bill made a motion, Hope seconded for January minutes - approved; for December timber plan meeting, Hope made a motion, Jim seconded – approved.
2. Public Hearing: Pattee Conservation Park Timber Harvest and Sale
 - a. Motion to open – Bill made a motion, Janet seconded.
 - b. Introductions – of all present, and Jess gave a little background and maintenance efforts of the property over the years. We have been mowing periodically up to now, but now with the large white pines, there was interest in looking at a harvest to manage the forested area for better health of the property overall. Steve indicated that we have a driveway permit from the State, and he met with Jim Frohn (county forester) who thought it was a good idea and all was set to go.
 - c. Discussion – Some discussion about the life span of the trees and lack of new growth in the forest. The timber cut would be a shelter cut to select certain trees and leave others. Trees to be left are already marked. A neighbor was concerned about the stone apron required by the state at the end of the temporary driveway. That is a waterway to keep water from running down the road and into his driveway. Maybe the stones would help slow the water flow or the stones could be removed afterwards depending on the water flow. Steve can include in the contract that the contractor may need to remove the stone after the operation. Some discussion about the mowing schedule – every other year encourages more of a meadow than a true field (even though it's often referred to as a field). There was a question about expanding the trails, so we will see what the area looks like after the timber cut.
 - d. Motion to close – Jim made a motion, Hope seconded – approved.
3. Property Updates:
 - a. PCP
 - i. Signage re: forest management – we will ask Steve if he has signage already that we can use. Can it go on the CCC website to inform the public? We can draft something up and ask MegaPrint to print. Hope will reach out to the Wildlife Action Plan group to see if they have

something about managed cuts for wildlife. Bill will draft something if we need it. We can also think about putting a meadow information sign out there (Jess will draft some text).

- b. BWNA
 - i. Trail guide update (Jess) - No update at this time
 - ii. Trail guide QR codes (Jim) - He will do this once a trail guide is ready.
 - c. WBBF
 - i. Winter tracking event/Nature walk – Jess and Hope heard from Lea, and for multiple reasons, it will not happen this year. Maybe we'll do something in the spring. Jess put up 2 snowmobile trail information signs at either end of the trail indicating foot traffic on the trail.
4. Invasives Subcommittee Report (Janet, Jim, Bill) - Did not meet last month; Jim brought the information sheet that will go into the town report about Japanese knotweed. In thinking about other species, there was a question about the ash trees – Jim will check with a rep from the DOT who deals with invasive species. Maybe bittersweet will be the next one to tackle. Group will meet again once spring arrives.
5. New Business
- a. Upcoming Workshops/Conferences: Saving Special Places April 6th, - registration and sessions are not available yet; NHEE March 19th – Rebecca is attending; Hope is applying for the UNH Cooperative Extension Coverts training. Janet, Bill and Hope are attending the NH Wildlife Webinar series for community conservation planning put on by UNH, NHF&G, etc. with 1st meeting today (4 zoom meetings in total). Info about community input & goals, wildlife assessment and mapping (Katie Callahan does mapping for the state).
6. Old Business
- a. Barry Camp scholar selection update – 2 boys selected to attend this summer; possible NHFG Presentation (Hope) - she will talk with a Fish & Game officer about options.
 - b. Blair State Forest renaming update (Jim) - it did not make it out of the committee due to a memorialization policy and this did not qualify. Jane virtually attended the hearing that some commissioners presented at and was very appreciative and moved by the effort.
 - c. Plans for info to share at Town Meeting? - we will focus on this at our next meeting.
7. Incoming Mail - none

Some discussion about having an earlier start time for CCC meetings. Will discuss more at the next meeting.

Adjourned at 8:48pm.

Next meeting: March 6, 2024, Chair: Jim