

Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
April 5, 2010
Atkinson Town Hall

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:34

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Dan Kimball
Scott Kukshel
Denise Legault
Pete McVay
Michelle Veasey
Paul Wainwright

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Julie LaBranche, Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC), review of Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) proposal and outline. Julie presented an outline of an NRI for Atkinson based on an NRI done for Hampton. She reviewed the scope of work and a timetable, and said that the timetable may change if an extension to the deadline is granted. The current deadline is August 1, 2010. If granted, the timeline will be extended through December of 2011. She will know by next week if extensions will be granted.

Julie reviewed the table of contents, and said that each section may end with recommendations, such as additional study and evaluation, education and outreach, etc. Paul asked what the sources were. Julie said that they are quite extensive, and the RPC will be gathering the information and will ask the ACC to find information that may be missed. Prior to the next meeting she will come up with a list of recommended sources.

Dan asked if the generic descriptions are going to be different for Atkinson. Julie said that it will be very specific to Atkinson, with background references. She will also add a one-page executive summary of the findings and recommendations. Pete and Tim asked if the maps could be provided electronically also, preferably in DWG format. Julie said she could provide both DWG and JPEG formats. The maps of the Atkinson wetlands can also show the differences between a 50-foot and 100-foot buffer.

Many notes were taken and suggestions made to add sections and change content in the outline. Julie recommended that the Commission check with the Southeast Land Trust, which includes neighboring towns, in determining our priorities in protecting habitat. She will have a draft proposal of half of the contents by the May Conservation meeting, and asked that we contact her if we have any other topics to add to the NRI. Draft by May meeting. Depending on the extension period, it could be done by July. She asked the commission for the names of contact people in Atkinson that could assist in gathering information.

David Miller, Scout project on Sawyer parcel. Pete reported that Mark Miller, David's father and Scoutmaster, said that David is overcommitted on many school and other activities and may not be able to do the trail project on Sawyer this year.

Internal Business

Secretary report: A motion was made to approve the minutes of February 8, 2010. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention. Other minutes were deferred to the May meeting because of time considerations.

Treasurer's report: Tim reported an extra expense this month for the Sawyer land forestry project. The sudden thaw mired the logger's equipment in the field and Tim had to purchase gravel to create a temporary firm surface to remove the equipment. Logging will resume only after the land has dried out enough.

Other:

Membership renewals: Michelle and Paul need to fill out Committee appointment forms for 2010-2013 terms.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

1. **Paintball forts and fireworks debris** on Caroline Orr conservation land. Tim reported a "small house" or playhouse on the Sawmill Swamp lands.
2. **Southeast passage site walk** with Tracie Hines of Essex County. Greenbelt Association. Tracie is no longer with the Association and a replacement has not yet been named.
3. **Unpermitted wetlands fill** 21 Amberwood Drive. The Commission will file a complaint.
4. **Widowmaker trees** on conservation easement next to Paul Antkowiak, 21 Woodlawn Ave. The Town Administrator and Selectmen briefed that the tree removal is Brian Boyle's responsibility per Sumner. The Commission may want to renegotiate the agreement to add a widowmaker-removal clause.
5. **Dredge and fill filed by Osborne**, 8 Valcat Lane, for dock, looks like wrong form was used. If a Dredge and Fill is filed correctly, then the Conservation Commission has the right to intervene. Since this wasn't a proper form, then the Commission cannot intervene. Denise requested that Tim put a request in writing. A motion was made to authorize Denise to notify the enforcement officer for Valcat Lane that the Commission received a copy of a Dredge and Fill that did not appear to come through official channels, and that if it did come through official channels then the commission would like to intervene. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Pete will send a copy of the motion to Denise.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items:

1. **Two lot subdivision, Tim Dziechowski** Map 18 Lot 71, approved. Provisions being made for future conservation easements.
2. **Blackford Road subdivision** (off lower Maple), walked trail easement with Kevin Hatch. Clearing this would be a good Scout project.
3. We might want to see if we can get funding for a bike path. It should be done by the end of the year. The Commission may do it ourselves.

Zoning Board Agenda items:

4. **Zedalis application for variance** for construction in prime wetlands buffer zone 64' from edge of wetlands, Map 10 Lot 5, East Road. ZBA approved variance subject to mitigation planting to be agreed on with conservation commission. Mike Zedalis has been advised of new books on wetlands planting we put in library. Michelle mentioned the possibility of water gardens also, which can slow runoff. Mark Pederson at the HS may be a good contact for updating the web page with good resources and contacts. Dan mentioned that coastal white cedar would be a good wetland tree that would control the runoff. The state might provide the trees.
5. **Robert Allen, Map 16 Lot 32, 9 Emery Drive**, variance to keep concrete slab under fabric structure 12' from wetlands, variance denied without prejudice. Wetlands complaint filed and assigned to Eben Lewis at DES. No new update.

Town Meeting

1. Articles to add prime wetlands passed, the only one which is valid is the one endorsed by the Planning Board. We will need to get the maps for the new wetlands to DES along with certified election results. Hovey Meadow Pond and East and West Sawmill Swamp.
2. Article establishing 150' setback from prime wetlands. This has no effect on existing residential lots of record so it will only apply for new subdivisions and commercial/industrial lots.

Other Business

1. Sawyer Forestry Report and contract for winter work
 - Selectmen voted to abate timber tax in return for equivalent donation
 - Selectmen signed Intent to cut form PA-7
 - Conservation Chair signed of on all required state paperwork (DRA and DES)
 - Logger came in, set up, and worked for a couple of days before The Big Thaw. Logger pulled out and will return when the woods dry out some.
 - Needed three loads of gravel to repair the access road
 - Opportunity to clean up the new damage from the recent wind storm. All work must be completed by 8/31/10.
 - Discussion on fire risk signs to post. Tim will see about sources.
2. Preliminary DES visit with Jim Gove to explore town beach options

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, May 3rd, at 7:30.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay

Attachment: Rockingham Planning Commission NRI Proposal

**Town of Atkinson
Draft Scope of Work Agreement for a
Natural Resources Inventory
March 2010**

The Town of Atkinson was awarded a grant for \$7,800, as part of the CTAP Phase 2 Targeted Local Government Accounts program, to complete a Natural Resources Inventory. The town selected the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) to develop the NRI. As contractor for the project, RPC will bill all charges for services directly to the NHDOT for payment. RPC and the town will develop a project agreement to outline specific tasks and deliverables to complete the project within the Phase 2 grant period which ends August 1, 2010.

Following is a preliminary timetable and description of tasks and timetable to complete the project.

<i>RPC Tasks/Deliverables</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Review Tasks</i>
Present Draft Outline	March 2010	Approve draft outline
Present Draft NRI	May 2010	Review and comment on draft report
Present Final Draft NRI and map set	Early June 2010	Review and comment on draft report and map set
Present Final NRI Report	Late June 2010	Final review and endorsement of report and map set
Present Final NRI to Planning Board	Early July 2010	Review and endorsement by the planning board to adopt NRI as part of Master Plan
Assist with adoption of NRI as part of the Master Plan	Late July 2010	Attend public hearing with the Planning Board

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7.0 Forest Resources

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Evaluation of Restorable Salt Marshes in New Hampshire
- 10.3 Hampton-Seabrook Estuary Restoration Compendium
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- Appendix B List of Soil Map Units and Farmland Soil Map Units
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- Appendix F Additional References
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