

**Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
May 2, 2011
AtkinsonTown Hall**

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:12

Attending:

Tim Dziechowski
Dan Kimball (joined meeting at 7:45)
Denise Legault
Michelle Veasey
Paul Wainwright

General Business

- Tim reviewed the Town Report online and found that he, Pete McVay, Scott Kukshtel and Michelle Veasey's terms all expire this year. He asked that all members fill out Volunteer Forms and he will request that the Board of Selectmen appoint two members for two years and two for three years, in order to stagger expiration of terms.

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Tim found that **Cub-Scoutmaster Bryan Comeau**. Pack 95 Webelos Scouts will be traveling on business and will not be available for a scout project until September. Therefore the discussed project possibilities will have to be handled by Commission members. A date for clearing downed trees near the double gate entrance to Sawyer 4H field will be arranged through email. Commission members will also have to deal with bittersweet. Vines will have to be cut near the base and treated with vine killer.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items:

- Julie LaBranche of the Rockingham Planning Commission has not provided the Conservation Commission with the final version of the Natural Resources Inventory report. Therefore, the final review will have to be moved to the June meeting.
- **Workshop on incentive zoning**, No action on the workshop.

Zoning Board Agenda items:

- George Murray of 6 Murray Drive is requesting a wetland's setback variance for a farmer's porch. Tim and Michelle did a site walk and found that the house is 110 feet from the wetland plant indicators. The porch is 8 feet wide, leaving a 102' setback. No variance is required. Tim will send a letter to the ZBA.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

- A letter was forwarded to Tim regarding a beaver dam on the Bryant Brook Prime Wetlands area that is raising water levels in residential areas significantly. Tim drove around the Plaistow side without sighting the dam, but did notice high water. He also checked the Atkinson side along the Little River and found no issue up to the railroad tracks. Near the tracks, he found an old dam that had been plugged by a beaver creating a five foot deep water impoundment. The dam is on property owned by the Town of Atkinson under the direction of the Conservation Commission and the old Westville Homes land. Paul made a motion to authorize Tim to take action with any required permits to remove/relocate the beaver and to deconstruct the dam to resolve water issues on Bryant Brook wetland area. Denise seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Tim will talk with the owners of the Westville site to jointly address the required action.

- **LCIP report for Caroline Orr town forest:** No action taken.
- **SPNH 2010 monitoring report,** Williams, W&M, #4. No action taken.

Other Business

- The Selectmen voted to abate the timber tax on the Sawyer parcel. They are supportive of a town-wide forestry plan. Tim announced that an electronic version of the Sawyer Forestry plan is available on the Conservation site, <http://www.atkinsonconservation.org>.
- A purchase and sale has been completed with the Pettengills. Deb Pettengill expressed concern that the land only be used for Conservation purposes. Tim explained that the land cannot be protected from taking by eminent domain, but that the parcel would be voted on to become Atkinson Town Forest. Paul asked whether the Conservation Commission could add conservation easement language to the deed. Tim explained that the legal fees would make it cost prohibitive. Michelle suggested that that option be suggested to the Pettengills before transfer to Atkinson, if they are concerned that town Forest designation is not enough protection. Tim also explained that under RSA 41:14a, that town officials cannot sell property that has been acquired for the public good, under the control of the Conservation Commission or town forest. A public hearing will be scheduled, hopefully in June.

Secretary report:

Deferred to June meeting

Treasurer's report:

No money was spent since the last report.

Other:

- Town web page update: no word on a new town format.
- Michelle announced that there is a Build Green workshop on Open Space planning being held at the PSNH Energy Park on May 10th. She asked whether members of the Planning Board should be notified. Tim said Sue Killam would have received a copy of this announcement.
- Tim announced that the Household Hazardous Waste Day is being held on Saturday, May 14th at the Plaistow Recreation Fields (52 Old County Road) from 9am to Noon. Proof of residency is required. Details of acceptable items can be found by going to the "News and Views" tab on www.atkinsonconservation.org.
- Michelle announced that the Commission has a new set of habitat brochures for each habitat type in New Hampshire. The set will be given to Kimball Public Library. Tim also announced that Landscaping at the Water's Edge and the Road Less Traveled have also been given to the library for residents use.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, June 6th at 7:00. A public hearing on the purchase of the Pettengill property will most likely precede the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Veasey