

Minutes, Atkinson Conservation Commission
August 8, 2010
Atkinson Town Hall

Call To Order by Chairman Tim Dziechowski at 7:42

Attending:

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

Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

Julie LaBranche, RPC, review of NRI proposal and outline. Julie reviewed the draft of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) prepared by her through the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC). A copy of the draft is appended to these minutes for reference.

The draft NRI consists of ten sections:

1. Introduction
2. Natural Conditions and Landscape
3. Surface Water Resources
4. Wetlands
5. Groundwater Resources and Water Supply
6. Wildlife and Ecological Resources
7. Forest Resources and Forestry
8. Open Space and Land Conservation
9. Local, Regional and State Studies and Projects
10. Environmental and Land Use Impacts to Natural Resources

Julie reviewed each section, pointing out where there are gaps in information and also asking for corrections and additions. Julie took extensive notes, noting corrections, areas that needed verification, and additions to existing topics. Julie asked Commission members to review each section and also wanted tax revenue maps, a general summary of resource protection activities in the town, town ordinances and regulations that relate to natural resources, and a summary of land use tax revenue. It was recommended that Julie also contact Sue Killam and Jim Garrity for agriculture information in Atkinson. In particular, the town should have goals for resource protection and an assessment criteria list to rank candidates for protection. SPNHF and several towns have assessment checklists that can be used as models. Also needed are pictures of streams, ponds, and walks. A large section on trails and walks will be expanded.

Recommendations from the Commission were for more maps to make interpretation of land resource tables clearer, footnotes and explanations of symbols used in the tables, make all units of measure consistent (English units), steep slope identification, and better definitions of what constitutes a "farm". Section 5 (Groundwater resources) seems slanted toward development rather than protection.

Other overall considerations discussed were that Atkinson is nearly built-out in terms of undeveloped land, and zoning and building may shift to existing dwellings and buildings rather than totally new construction. The NRI should take these developments into account.

The plan must be available by January and must pass a public hearing by the Planning Board. Julie will send an email of the new requirements and additions and will meet again with the Commission in September to review the changes and additions.

Review of Correspondence

Planning Board Agenda Items: Ongoing review of CTAP priorities for funding round 3. Trail systems are included, and a trail plan is needed.

Zoning Board Agenda items: library sign will be discussed at the next meeting. The sign is a low-light LED, but there are community concerns about esthetics and how intrusive it could be.

Other Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

6/14 complaint filed with police about tree service dumping brush into conservation wetlands on Lakeside Drive. The contact is Jim Perry from a tree company in Sandown. He said he will clean it up.

6/28 asst. road agent Josh Dugale reported that somebody dumped 50-60 cubic yards of wood chips into conservation wetlands on Lakeside Drive, not sure if related to tree company incident.

7/8 number of residents on Lakeside Drive would like to organize a neighborhood cleanup for brush and winter storm damage.

Dredge and fill filed by Osborne, 8 Valcat Lane, for dock, filed intervention with DES, status is still administratively incomplete.

Nault, complaint about water discharge from neighbors's land on Island Pond Road

Mike Zedalis, East Road, deck is complete but wetland buffer plants are not. This was a condition of the variance. Bob Jones never issued a building permit, so he will investigate what is happening there.

Other Business

Sawyer Forestry Cut - 2010 form PA-8 filed with town to close out the 2010 PA-7 Intent to cut (nothing was cut due to early mud season). New 2011 PA-7 Intent to cut approved by selectmen and filed with town and state. Logger will be in to start cutting late August or early September.

Southeast passage - meeting and strategy session with Vanessa Johnson of ECGA Tuesday 8/3 at 10 AM in the planning office.

Prime wetlands, certified town meeting results and prime wetlands maps sent to DES.

Town beach survey of 1967. Thorndike from Haverhill surveyed Hovey Meadow Pond as a possible beach. Survey is missing, but the land is steep and no place to park. There was no indication of a town beach on Island Pond.

Internal Business

Secretary report: review of June minutes deferred to September meeting.

Treasurer's report: no expenditures in July.

Private Session: Conservation Easements / Land Purchases

Commission went into private session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) (d) to discuss land and possible gift lands. It was moved and seconded to go into private session, Passed unanimously.

Builder approached the planning office and wants to put a road in to Map 20 Lot 7 (Rick Shaefer's acreage). Rick is interested in putting together something that would keep as much of the land open as possible. Approximately 140 acres comes out to \$425,000 but could be worth twice that. Tim would like to see the current land use tax restored to the Conservation Fund, so that we have a land capital fund for purchase. Rick is willing to work with us on this. Might be CTAP funding for real projects also.

Private session was closed at 10:27 by motion that passed unanimously. Acclimation to seal by unanimous vote of six.

The next meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, 8 Sep, at 7:30.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete McVay