

Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2015, 7:30 PM
Atkinson Town Hall

Members Present:

Tim Dziechowski, Chairman
Peter McVay, Secretary
Paul Wainwright, Vice Chairman
Dan Kimball
Denise Legault

Others Present:

Peter Graziano, Eagle Scout
Glenn Saba, Century Builders

1. Call to order, attendance

Chairman Dziechowski called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM, Monday, October 5, 2015.

2. Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

- Peter Graziano, Eagle Scout Project Presentation - Discussion: Mr. Graziano completed his project Sunday, October 4, 2015 and showed the Commission pictures of the sign. Mr. Graziano used NH GRANITView to make the map, made a PDF and sent it to Hampstead Print and Copy who put it on PVC paper and made 2 copies of it. Mr. Kimball has a copy. It is on a backing of six one by six boards and is secured with six bolts. The Commission suggested a coat of polymer. Mr. Kimball expressed concern about fading. Chair Dziechowski stated it is in the shade. Chair Dziechowski requested copies of the PDF and Mr. Graziano agreed to send him one. Total cost was \$1,101.36.

Mr. Graziano turns 18 on November 30, 2015 but has the application for his Eagle Scout Badge so his birthday is not a problem. He needs to go to the Board of Review and he needs to settle the bills before he can go to the review.

Mr. Graziano has the bills and Chair Dziechowski will make copies to give to the Selectmen. The project has already been voted on. There is \$750 in the special projects account and \$500 in the signs account. The cost will be split between the 2 accounts.

Mr. Graziano also blazed another trail to Indian Rock. It is very well cleared, it is quite wide and as long as there is foot traffic the trail should last a long time. He installed the signs in the woods, but because of the season, he could not put identifying signs on a few things. He will have the signs for the Commission and leave them. Chair Dziechowski informed the Commission that he walked the trail and he is very impressed.

Chair Dziechowski signed the Eagle Scout Service Report at Mr. Graziano's request. Mr. Graziano explained that the project workbook has all the details of the project. Member Wainwright commented that Mr. Graziano's project was the best he has seen. Chair Dziechowski requested Mr. Graziano email the Commission a copy of his project book for future reference of other projects. Mr. Graziano informed the Commission that the project was very rewarding. Mr. Graziano also informed the Commission that other members of his Scout Troop might be interested in Eagle Scout Projects. A friend of his is interested in rebuilding a bridge in the vicinity of Mr. Graziano's project. Mr. McVay remarked that there are also some bridges that need repair, one is on the Sawyer land. These bridges might require complete replacement. Mr. Graziano stated that the Scout Troop also might be interested in a service

project.

Century Builders recommendation on wetlands setback variance to be heard at 10/14/15 ZBA meeting, Map 9 Lot 49-6, Blackstone Drive Lot 6, see attached plan.

Chair Dziechowski explained that there are issues with the wetland and Mr. Saba has obtained an easement for a driveway. Mr. Dziechowski pointed out the wetlands, the proposed driveway and the proposed structures on the map.

Glenn Saba, Century Builders, appeared to discuss his project. The Commission looked at the map. Mr. Saba explained that he was in front of the Commission for relief on Lot 3. Lot 6, the biggest lot, which has the buildable envelope would require a 750 foot driveway from Blackford Drive. He obtained an easement giving him access to Kelly Lane, which significantly shortens the driveway. Mr. Saba is planning on moving to the lot and is here for an easement for his garage. He needs it to store his vehicles and for projects. The wetland he is requesting a variance for has just been reflagged. It is presently dry, isolated and small. There is another larger wetland on the property but Mr. Saba will avoid it by gaining access to the property from Kelly Lane. This will prevent driveway runoff into the larger wetland.

Chair Dziechowski explained that the Board's policy on garages is that they are preferred to oil and gas seeping into the driveway.

The distance from the proposed garage to the wetland would be 30.9 feet. The lot is fairly flat. The proposed garage is considerably above the wet area. The driveway would be blacktop. The driveway is flat, and would drain away from the wetland until the very end. The area in the back is fairly natural and woody. He is planning on leaving the woods and minimizing grass. The house is less than 4,000 square feet. It is two stories, full basement. Mr. Saba is proposing a three car garage. He is planning on talking to the abutters. The plan is on the Zoning Board of Adjustment docket October 14, 2015. If Mr. Saba has to clear between the proposed garage and the wetland, the Board suggested planting wetland-friendly plants like arborvitae and alder. Native plants would be good.

Member Paul Wainwright made a motion to recommend approval of the project to the ZBA. Member Denise Legault seconded the motion. All members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission voted in favor. Vote: 5/0/0.

3. Review of Correspondence

- ZBA 9/9/15 Meeting - nothing to report
- Planning Board Meeting September 16, 2015 - discussion of the expansion of Palmer Gas at 4 Commerce Drive, no conservation issues
- Letter to the Selectmen requesting to do online easement monitoring for Williams lot #4, on Hemlock Heights.

4. Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

- CSPA application from Scott and Cassandra Silva, 43 Boulder Cove Road, Map 23 Lot 77, for a 2 car garage and gravel driveway, 2015-02216, permit approved. Discussion: Notice to the Conservation Commission.
- CSPA application from Kinnear Family Trust, 1 Rocky Point Lane, Map 22 Lot 27, minimum impact project, repair existing retaining wall, under technical review.
Discussion: Damage to the wall, location of the wall and lot. The Commission looked at the lot and the retaining wall on-line. The Commission agreed that it is a low impact project and the Conservation Commission did not need to get involved. DES will look at it.
- The Commission also discussed when to take the dock out and replace the float. Chair Dziechowski will discuss it with Mr. Stewart, Road Agent as to a good date. The lake is taken down on Columbus Day Weekend.
- The Commission will also ask Mr. Stewart about the rocks that were put on the beach. The Commission looked on line to see where the rocks were put in and agreed that they should be moved.
- Sign issues at Community Center and the Salon 121 sign
Discussion: The standalone Salon 21 sign has been removed and a small business sign added to the main sign at the complex. There is still no directional sign for Town Forest. If the Commission wishes to have the sign ordinance enforced, they would need to go to the Town Administrator because Jim Kirsch has resigned. The Selectman hired a part time code enforcement officer. The Commission discussed what could be done about compliance.
- Entrance to Judge Marshall town forest. Chair Dziechowski discussed the entrance with the Road Agent regarding the development by Victoria LLC and suggested that the Road Agent get it done.
- Yard waste dumping on Orr lot at Roby Lane, no action.
- 2015 perambulation, when last done: Plaistow 2002, Derry 2007, Salem 2007, Hampstead 2009, Haverhill, not required by law

5. Other Business

- VOSS sign order on hold pending Scout sign invoice - put on hold, can go into next year's actions.
- Need to get Charlie Moreno in for November or December meeting. - Chair Dziechowski has been unable to get in touch with him.
- Orr town forest issues:
Discussion: skid trails to avoid Dan's wildlife patch, the price of cordwood is at an all time high and we need to capitalize on that, maybe combine the town firewood program with retail sales to benefit forestry fund and pay for storage shed. The cordwood is at an all time high and something needs to be done.
- Professional Services:
Discussion: survey and mark boundaries of Slade town forest addition, ROW to backland parcel near Blunt's Pond. The 7.2 acres added to the Slade Town Forest across from High

Hill Road was purchased from Steve Lewis and would be a good handicap accessible trail because it is relatively dry and flat. Some Conservation land in the area may have been cleared by an abutter. The Commission discussed the boundaries. There are two lines that have never been marked. A good place to start is establishing where the line is. Another line Chair Dziechowski would like marked is the area of a 3-4 acre parcel near Little River Lane. The developer gave the Commission a 10 foot wide right of way to access to the parcel. Chair Dziechowski would like to mark the four corners and the entrance with surveyor pins. The Commission discussed whether to use the Tick Danger signs and decided against it.

- Canoe launch dock repairs: discussed earlier
- Entrance to Woodlawn trail: no action
- Refresh pack on forest road trail entrance to Bowdoin field.

Discussion: Chair Dziechowski asked the Road Agent to do it and suggest he charge it to care of grounds. Since it is a Town Emergency Lane, it could be done out of the Highway Department budget.

- Equipment: no action.

Discussion: Chair Dziechowski asked the Commission members if there was any equipment to purchase or repair. Mr. Kimball has a Husquvarna that needs repair. Chair Dziechowski also has a chainsaw that needs repair. He will check out equipment repair stores, especially the place the Cemetery Committee takes its equipment.

Mr. McVay informed the Commission that there is a Japanese Knotweed infestation along the sides of the roads. There is a huge infestation along the Plaistow line. Chair Dziechowski suggested a field trip and getting it sprayed. There is another issue with the Woolly Adelgid, which is killing the hemlocks. The Commission discussed a fix. Saving the trees would cost \$4,000 a tree. Cutting all the infested trees and chipping the lumber is about the only solution.

The Commission also discussed updates on the Emerald Ash Borer. Mr. Kimball has been looking and has not seen a problem. Soon, all the firewood will be quarantined. This will be an issue with selling firewood from the Town Forest.

The Commission returned to Japanese Knotweed. Mr. McVay will take pictures, get the GPS coordinates on line and post them. If there is any, the Highway Committee has to get involved. It needs to be budgeted for and destroyed. The Road Agent has organized spraying against some infestations. Chair Dziechowski requested that the Commission take pictures if they see any. The Garden Club can also get involved.

6. Internal Business

Conservation Commission Storage Options: shed, community center, planning office, member's garages, yard sales, trash, shred.

Discussion: Chair Dziechowski suggested consolidating all records on Conservation Lots in the Town Forest in the Planning Office. He spoke to Sue Killam, about keeping the files in the planning office. There is also a cabinet with things in it that needs to be cleaned out. Mr. Dziechowski would like an office and file cabinets that can be locked, possibly at the

Community Center. There are some offices at the Community Center and one of those could be used. The Commission discussed how to deal with all the records from the Conservation Commission. Some can be digitized but some have to be preserved as paper. Some can be shredded and trashed. A scanner enabled cell phone can also be used to digitize some of the paperwork.

The Conservation Commission also needs a shed. The money could come out of the Conservation Fund or the Forestry Fund. Cordwood is also selling at very high prices. The Commission discussed how much wood could be taken from Atkinson forests. The Commission discussed burning wood and how much is needed to heat an average home for one year. Mr. McVay informed the Commission that there is a lot of deadwood in the forest. Mr. Kimball agreed.

Rules change for meeting quorum: Mr. Dziechowski proposed adopting a bylaw change making a quorum a majority of the present members and the recording secretary or whoever is willing to volunteer to record minutes. The volunteer can be a member or someone else. There would not be a meeting unless there was a quorum.

Secretary Pete McVay made a motion to make a quorum a majority of serving members and a recording secretary, either the official recording secretary or a volunteer if the recording secretary is not present. The motion was seconded by Paul Wainwright. No discussion. Vote: 5/0/0.

There is a change to the law that affects the right to know. If you go into private session, a vote to come out of the session and seal the session has to happen in the public session.

7. Secretary report

Minutes: Defer minutes to a workshop meeting on October 26, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Mr. Dziechowski will find a room. The Commission committed to reading them before the meeting.

Mr. Kimball informed the Commission of a training session called Birds, Bucks and Bunnies by the State UNH and State Forestry Service on October 24, 2015. The cost is \$30.00 and it is on conservation of New England Cottontail, Whitetail Deer and Migratory Songbirds. Mr. Kimball will attend.

2016 budget review - Member Paul Wainwright: The Commission agreed to submit the same budget for 2016 as the budget for 2015. Mr. Wainwright presented the budget to the Selectmen. There were no questions. Mr. Wainwright also presented the Commission budget to the Budget Committee.

9. Adjournment

Member Paul Wainwright made a Motion to adjourn the October 5, 2015 meeting of the Conservation Commission at 9:00 PM. Member Denise Legault seconded the Motion. All members of the Conservation Commission voted in favor. Vote: 5/0/0.

The next regular meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission will be a workshop meeting on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 7:00 PM.