

Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes
Monday, December 7, 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:

Charles Moreno, Consulting Forester

Pete Gargas, Bryant Woods
Boy Scout Troop 9

1. Call to order, attendance

Chairman Dziechowski called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM, Monday, December 7, 2015.

2. Guest Business and Plan Reviews:

- Charlie Moreno, review and finalization of Caroline Orr Town Forest forestry plan

Discussion: The Commission reviewed a physical features map and a recommendations map for the Caroline Orr Town Forest. Various recommendations for the property have been done for forestry work. Mr. Moreno pointed out areas of invasive or nonnative plants which are shown on the map with red cross hatches. Non native plants can dominate a site. Thick growths of nonnative plants do not allow the forest to self plant. It detracts from the esthetics of the forest and it is also not good for wildlife. It is recommended to remove the plants. The management plan talks about strategies for removing nonnative plants. There is some cost and any income made from logging could be used to pay to remove the plants. Some varieties are oriental bittersweet, buckthorn and honeysuckle. There are a mixture of approaches. Japanese Knotweed is a big problem in Atkinson. It prefers light so Mr. Moreno recommends a buffer of trees to help curb it. In order to eradicate it, a community wide effort would be needed. One big major control is needed and then every year thereafter. Mr. Moreno prefers to work with self planting. The Commission discussed if it can be a staging area.

The Commission looked at the border between the Carole Orr Town Forest and Bryant Woods. If Bryant Woods wanted to do any tree removal and maintenance, it could be dragged out along Bryant Woods Road and the Town skidding trails to the field staging area to be removed. This would save the Condominium Association a lot of money. The Commission next discussed truck traffic while logging is going on. Bryant Brook Meadow has potential to be a wildlife reserve. There are a great many birds and other wildlife there. It would be a great place for a bird watching stand.

The Commission discussed scouting projects. Mr. Moreno suggested that the Scouts could assist with removing invasive plants. The Commission discussed the Slade Town Forest and how it would be a great handicap accessible park because it is so flat. The Commission discussed the logging project, quarantined areas and ash woods. The

Commission also discussed who to hire to do the logging and a market for the wood. Mr. Moreno informed the Commission that the only thing that is quarantined is white ash. If ash is cut, it has to be sold in Rockingham County. Mr. Moreno also pointed out that the quality of work is as important as the number of cords that can be taken out. If too much young growth is taken out, then you end up losing money in the long run. He also informed the Commission that the market for good wood is a long way away.

The Commission also has a map of Sawyer Town Forest. It shows the champion ash tree. Mr. McVay and his family have assisted in locating champion trees in Atkinson. There is an infestation on both side of the Sawyer conservation area of oriental bitter sweet, plus burning bush, buckthorn and other nonnative species. Mr. Moreno recommends hiring a company that is experienced in removing invasive species of plants. Mr. Moreno suggested starting a plan to remove invasive plants from the Caroline Orr Town Forest. Mr. Moreno suggested starting with a herbicide. Then, other methods such as uprooting can be used. Another possibility is goats. They would have to be fenced in. There is a herd that can be rented in Georgetown. Chair Dziechowski recommended a combination of cutting and herbicide. The Commission discussed types of birds in the Town Forest. Mr. Moreno informed the Commission that he has a list of companies and suggested that the Commission get some quotes now.

September is the best time to spray for Japanese Knotweed. Chair Dziechowski recommended coordinating with the Garden Club and the Road Agent. Mr. Moreno pointed out that a license is needed to spray herbicides. Mr. McVay will check to see if grant money is available. The Commission discussed the cost and Mr. Moreno recommended using income from logging. Mr. Moreno will email the Commission some information on companies who remove invasive species of plants.

Chair Dziechowski pointed out that the area south of Wal Mart and north of Market Basket was used by brick factories. The Commission continued to discuss the type of soil in the forest. The adjacent field is mostly Windsor sand.

Chair Dziechowski stated that the Commission needs to start a plan for combating invasive species and logging.

- Bryant Woods Homeowners Association, Q&A regarding our forestry plan and possible integration with Town Forest maintenance. Discussion: The Homeowners Association would like to remove some trees and possibly make some money. Mr. Moreno pointed out that it is a very small parcel but he will look at it. The Homeowners Association is spending about \$20,000 a year in tree work. There are many trees within 10 feet of the buildings.
- Mr. Moreno recommended a late winter cut. Chair Dziechowski asked if the markings would be there next year. Chair Dziechowski informed the Commission that he was informed that the loggers would ask for less money if they did not have to pay timber tax. Chair Dziechowski asked the Town Attorney who informed him that if the Town used all the money from logging for Town Forest, then it was not necessary to pay taxes for timber removal.
- Mr. Moreno pointed out that boundary line blazing should be done at all properties. Mr. Dziechowski informed the Commission that some of the boundaries have been

blazed and the trees have been marked. Mr. Moreno stated that he will try to mark the trees and will keep in touch.

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Mr. Moreno stated he can send the paperwork in or he can meet with the Commission at the site. He will also take a look at the Bryant Woods Condominium Association open space and contact Mr. Gargas.

3. Review of Correspondence

- ZBA 11/11/15, meeting - request for a garage by Glenn Saba was approved at the 11/11/15 meeting and an application for an accessory living unit was also approved.
- Planning Board 11/4/ workshop: Blackdog Builders site plan review, 14 Industrial Way, Map 16 Lot 49, approved with the Planning Board requested site plan changes to runoff and drainage to fix wetlands issues - the owner and engineer agreed to make the changes necessary to correct the runoff issues and will no longer affect the downstream lot(s).
- Planning Board 11/18/16 meeting: Application for Subdivision for Ruby Land Holdings, LLC to create a 9 lot Commercial/Industrial subdivision, on property located at Hall Farm Road, Map 16 Lot 9. Deferred to 12/16/15 meeting. They have still not finished the wetlands remediation measures agreed to last June for this lot.
- Planning Board 12/2/15 workshop: Discussion of open space and enforcement of current innovative land use regulations. The consensus was that minor changes are needed for clarification but not this year. Another issue is open space easements. Open space easements are OK and enforceable under current regulations if granted by the developer before a homeowners association comes into existence. -

Discussion: The laws also allow the Town to specify who enforces land use regulations and open space easements.

4. Dredge and Fills / Site Walks / Complaints

- Shore land PBN 2015-02082 from Erika Escher, 19 Hemlock Shore Drive, Map 22 Lot 75, impact 875 sq. ft. to construct a new 20' x 30' garage and sunroom, permit rejected. Probably too much for a PBN. Discussion: Same lot new permit application 2015-03054, Impact 1,030 sq. ft. to construct a new 20' x 30' garage over existing pavement, expand the existing deck and build a sunroom; resulting in a net reduction of impervious area. Approved with better language. Discussion: Kevin Camm, the engineer, rewrote the application and it was approved.
- CSPA application from Kinney Family Trust, 1 Rocky Point Lane, Map 22 Lot 27, minimum impact project, repair existing retaining wall, under technical review.

Discussion: It was approved.

- Sign issues at Community Center Still no directional sign for town forest. Need to take pictures and update Forest Society - no action.
- Entrance to Judge Marshall town forest - no action
- 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 - no action

5. Other Business

- Email query, where can I hunt with guns and no town permits? Answered with maps and hunting FAQ, and copied to town email
- All conservation commission members have been invited to Peter Graziano's Eagle Scout award ceremony January 2, 2016. Given the level of work he put in to this, can we come up with a suitable appreciation award?

Discussion: Chair Dziechowski received a letter from the Scout leader regarding the amount of work done by the Scout Troop blazing the trail and asked if an award from the Town was appropriate. It would go into Mr. Graziano's Eagle Scout application. There is no other meeting before the award presentation. Member Wainwright will look at the trail and possibly take photographs.

- Professional services: contracted with Kevin Hatch to survey and mark boundaries of Slade town forest addition, prepare lot line adjustment plan (Jane Jones house is on the market), and mark corners of ROW to backland parcel near Blunt's Pond.

Discussion: mark the corners so it would be difficult for them to be removed. Cost will be \$900. Mr. Hatch will also do a lot line adjustment survey with the Slade Town Forest and the Jane Jones property. Also mark the boundaries of easements on Little River Lane. He agreed to do the job for \$300. This is most of the professional services budget. It should be done before the end of 2015.

- Canoe launch dock repairs - Ted and crew are taking out the dock.

Discussion: Once the dock is out a new float will be put on.

- Entrance to Woodlawn trail - no action
- Refresh pack on the Forest Road trail entrance - Chair Dziechowski will ask Ted to do it again and we will charge it to care of grounds
- We need donations of good used brush cutters which can be used with a saw blade.

6. Internal Business

- Conservation Commission storage options - shed, community center, planning office, member's garages, yard sales, trash, shred, UPDATE: The Planning Board

Chair is giving us a file cabinet shelf or two for the lot files for conservation, town forests, and town owned land.

- Secretary report - Tim and Pete to check pile of amended minutes. Pete to convert to PDF and submit to town webpage. - not done
- Pay NHACC and Forest Society dues - Karen's minutes, chainsaw and brush cutter tune ups at Brentwood Power Equipment
- 2016 budget - has been whacked by the Budget Committee way beyond the 2% to 3% budget reduction goals. This means All Hands On Deck at 2016 deliberative session or scaled back operations in 2016.

7. Secretary report

Minutes: deferred

8. Private Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) to discuss land issues.

Member Wainwright made a motion to adjourn the December 7, 2015 public meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission into Private Session under RSA 91- A:3 II (d) to discuss land issues at 8:28 PM. Member McVay seconded the motion. All members of the Conservation Commission voted in favor. Vote: 5/0/0. The February 1, 2016 public meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

9. Adjournment

Chair Dziechowski called the public meeting of the December 7, 2015 into session.

Member Wainwright made a motion to seal the minutes of the December 7, 2015 private session of the Atkinson Conservation Commission indefinitely. Member Kimball seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Vote: 5/0/0.

Member Paul Wainwright made a motion to adjourn the December 7, 2015 public meeting. Member Pete McVay seconded the motion. All members of the Conservation Commission voted in favor. Vote: 5/0/0.

The December 7 2015 public meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission will be a workshop meeting on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7:30 PM.