

Harrisville Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes, 3 April 2013

Present: Barbara Watkins, Les Lamois, Beccy Fortin, Harry Wolhandler, Laurie Appel, Winston Sims, Bob Sturgis

Excused: Jean Rosenthal

1. Agenda approved.

2. Minutes: Beccy Fortin and Laurie Appel took strong exception to iii) under item 5 the Dyer Proposal. They did not believe the HCC had agreed that: "if the garage could be relocated to the north, it could permit the relocation of the house to achieve a setback of 75' from the reference line." The Chair said that he had sought to confirm the wording before the end of that meeting. The draft minutes had been circulated to the members on 10 March 2013. There had been no comments on the draft minutes. It had been understood that the purpose of the HCC review of the Dyer proposal was so its views could be conveyed to the ZBA for its consideration of the Dyer proposal. This was done on 16 March and copied to all members of the HCC. There had been no comments on the letter. Regardless, Laurie Appel and Beccy Fortin were invited to draft the wording they believed to be more appropriate. They indicated they would do that.

3. Re: the KEL proposals, Bob Sturgis noted that all four of the proposals: i) the review of the Ordinances; ii) Interactive Mapping; iii) Voluntary Compliance and iv) Build-Out Analysis would cost \$10,000 and that the HCC should not be considering these issues. That would best be done by the Planning Board.

Laurie believed these studies might best be done as a part of the NRI. Barbara said our main mission is to educate as opposed to undertaking studies. Bob Sturgis mentioned the Publication of the Lakes Association, Help Protect NH Lakes, as offering many valuable points to be conveyed to lake property owners. Winston mentioned the Guide published by the Squam Lakes Assn. that he had circulated to the Skatutakee owners.

Laurie mentioned that the number three proposal of the KEL groups was one that would not require their involvement since we could readily write articles, prepare posters and pamphlets and distribute these at the dump and place them on the various bulletin boards in town. Harry added that we could distribute the pamphlets by mail.

Related to the second proposal on Interactive Mapping, Bob thought we should await the maps that will be done by the NRI. Laurie thought the maps should be left to the Planning Board. Barbara said we should involve Don Scott to assist with the deliberations on mapping.

5. Permitting Process: In the absence of copies of the forms for all, and that they were not yet available in e-form, this issue was postponed. Partial copies of the forms were distributed.

6. Work Program for 2013:

- a) Invasives: Laurie said the most important issues were bittersweet and Japanese Knotweed. The bittersweet should be taken down off the post in the General Store. Barbara mentioned the discussion of Japanese Knotweed by the Rails-to-Trails. Various proposals included doing a test patch on the Chesham Trail; cutting the weeds several times a year but by hand, not by mower which could only spread the clippings and therefore spread the weed itself; an article had been published in the Common Threads 12-18 months ago, the article had been cleared by Doug Cygan. A poster could be placed on the Rail Trails. It was also suggested that in light of the earlier meeting with CC members from Nelson, Marlborough and Dublin, that our work should seek to involve them, especially in view of Laurie's experience with Dublin. She will explore this.
- b) Roadside Clean-Up would begin on 20 April. Blue bags would be available at both the Town Hall and the Transfer Station. Phyllis would have a sign up clip-board where those picking up the bags could indicate those roads where they had cleaned up. No tires or wood are to be picked up and placed in the bags. These can be picked up later by the Road crew. Harry moved, Les seconded, and the HCC decided unanimously it could make funds available for any trash disposal.
- c) Working Group on Analysis of Arts. IV, IX and XV and 483-B. Bob Sturgis indicated that because of his new role with the ZBA, he would have to withdraw from the group since some of the issues under consideration might come up before the ZBA. Otherwise, where a conservation issue were to come before the ZBA, he would have to recuse himself. He said he had been told he could serve on the P.B., the HCC and the ZBA at the same time. It was important to avoid a conflict of interest.
- d) Pervious/impervious surfaces: Bob Sturgis asked why we are concerned with this issue. He said he firmly believes it makes no difference as to water quality if a house is 5 feet from the water or 50 feet, "its what people do in the house that is important." He cited no sources in support of this view. Harry noted the importance of protecting surface waters.
- e) Limits to Enforcement: Bob noted that he knew the Chair had been critical of the Selectmen in their role of enforcement. The Chair noted to the contrary, that his views were precisely the opposite and that he had distributed notes on this for some months. He said he would send out copies of this for comments in the next few days.
- f) Information, education and Motivation: Bob Sturgis referred us to a book published by NH Lakes that gives much useful information on protecting NH Lakes. The Chair added to that the Squam Lake Assn. also publishes a similar book. The URL has been distributed to the Lake Skatutakee members. Harry noted that once the NRI process is finished and our efforts to share the results and working maps with various town bodies are completed, it would be the proper role of our Conservation Committee to create and conduct educational programs on Lake Keeper topics, and use a small portion of our funds to print or buy and disseminate educational materials to all town or lakeside residents (as applicable). Naturally, this is a multi-year topic, and we'd need to establish an agenda on which issues to address and how to get out the materials - direct mail, homeowner workshops, central location displays or whatever. I realize it's a difficult task, but it's an educational issue and not an enforcement issue.