

Randolph Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 15, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm. Dan Koloski, Gus Howe Johnson, Annette Higby, Sid McLam, Gerry Reymore, Warren Davoll.

Minutes

August meeting minutes were accepted as read, DK moved, WD seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

No new report has been supplied at this time. We are looking forward to the most recent update. Questions from last month's treasurer's report have been referred to Michael DeCubellis by the town office for clarification.

Meeting Time

Meeting time is set for 6pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Bill Markle room at Gifford.

Board Positions

Membership was discussed and it was agreed that Jen Guarino is to remain on the board until we hear otherwise from her. The board suggested Annette Higby serve as co-chair in place of Steve Springer until the next board election after town meeting in March 2010. Therefore Dan and Annette will be co-chairs. AH made a motion to welcome Gerry Reymore onto the RCC in place of Ian Blackmer. SM seconded. Motion passed.

Educational Workshop

Suzanne Enser, project manager for the WRCD is holding the 2nd informational meeting at the Randolph Floodplain Forest. The RCC approved funding to support the development of two workshops and the first was held on September 13, 2008. This year's meeting will be an early evening hike entitled "A Unique Natural Community, Invasives Threats to Biodiversity & Opportunities for Stewardship" from 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 16 at the kiosk by the bowling alley off Prince Street. This workshop is funded by the Randolph Conservation Fund.

Brochure

Copies of the draft flier were sent to RCC members. The Town Manager wants to review previously approved recreation activities by the selectboard before a list is printed on the brochure. Dave said he would check the directions and map for the brochure before it is submitted for printing. The selectboard will review issues such as camping before the brochure is printed. Brochure is still in process.

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Forest Parcel Signage

Dave is filling out a request for approval to put up an identification sign at the South Pleasant Street forest. Gerry says two identification kiosk signs are completed and ready to be installed. Once approval has been received Gerry's students will put up the identification sign. With regards to the Ellis property Annette pointed out that there is a reference to signage in the deed for the Ellis property. Dave has a copy of the deed and will look into it. Dave will coordinate possibilities for an information sign for Ellis property with the town office. The town manager says we also need to work on the "no hunting" signage for the Ellis property as well as other restrictions. He added that a gate will be installed this fall and the picnic table will be returned in the spring. A nice sign has been installed at the Tatro Hill property by the Sayward family. Perhaps a sign recognizing the Ellis family could be put up at the Ellis property.

Ellis Property

Gerry said that an inspection in early September showed that the fields had been mowed. The brush from previous clearing work had been removed. Gerry's class is willing to go back up and help out in any way to continue with management according to the plan. The property appears to be well managed.

Town Forests

Gerry reported that Dave Paginelli, the Orange County forester, is interested in being a resource with the Randolph Conservation Commission on an as needed basis.

Funding Process for Fund Requests

When receiving and considering a funding request the RCC will continue to evaluate the request on the basis of its application, eligibility according to the guidelines, and will make recommendations to the select board accordingly.

WHIP Grant

We hope that the town office has completed the paperwork for the WHIP grant and sent it to the NRCS office in Newport.

Agenda

Dan invited ideas and suggestions for the agenda each month.

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Meeting Times

We discussed changing our meeting time to the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Meeting location will be the Bill Markle room at Gifford.

Town Plan

Hugo Leipmann called Dan and requested that the RCC review the town plan to offer input to the planning commission. Dan invited that anyone interested check out the new town plan online. Annette spoke with Julie Iffland who will send a copy of the town plan in preparation for the next RCC meeting. We hope to identify specific issues to comment on regarding natural resources and agriculture.

New Business/Educational Activities

Gerry reported that the building trades program and natural resources program are starting a project to build a timber frame structure measuring 12x12 feet to be raffled off with 100% of the income to go toward student scholarships. Gerry requests permission to cut 10 trees or so off the back of Tatro Hill property to use for this project. No heavy machinery will be used. The students would offer “in kind” labor and service for the trees. Gerry’s class has done a lot of maintenance on the property in the past few years to keep it healthy. A forest management plan written by Dave Pagineilli refers to the need to thin the trees on that property in 2008, it has not been completed in full and still needs to be addressed. DK made a motion recommending that Gerry contact the county forester for a management plan update and proceed with the timber stand improvement for the necessary 10-15 trees for this project. Seconded by AH. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2009, in the Bill Markle conference room at Gifford.