

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Minutes for the Conservation Commission meeting held at the Meriden Town Hall, 7PM on January 13, 2011

Attendees: David Grobe, Myra Ferguson, David Taylor, Judy Ptak

1) Approved the minutes of the November 11, 2010 meeting (Thank you, Anne)

2) Old Business (*underlined items are action items*)

A) Spring Green-Up Day* is set for April 23, 2011 (Earth Day) by David Grobe and Anne Donaghy. David reported and we discussed several options:

- Article in PlainFacts explaining Green-Up Day and encouraging residents to sign up at District/Town Meetings to clean-up a section of road on the provided map.
- Arranging for the major “job” of cleaning up the unfortunate dump-site on MacNamara’s land and opposite the NE Wildflower Society Preserve. This clean-up was successfully done several years ago. The Town of Plainfield provided heavy equipment to haul the trash to a dumpster. Anne and David are working on these arrangements. This may not be done on April 23 because of soil conditions and the steepness of the site. We need it to be dry so that the equipment can be positioned for easy loading and hauling.
 - Can we donate some of our funds to landscape (, e.g., berm and/or guard rail, shrubbery) the “clean” dump site to discourage continued dumping?
 - Perhaps we can make the clean-up event an educational event. We could invite Sarah Schwaegler of Orford, NH to explain the value of the plants in the preserve. Maybe we don’t want too many people there because we must protect the colony of rare cut-leaf toothwort that is adjacent to the dumpsite. The clean-up probably be a separate event from the educational event.
- Asking neighbors to “hire” seventh or eighth graders to clean-up a section of roadway (like Jane Stephenson (Black Hill Road) has done in the past). The payment would go to their class fundraising.
- David G. or Anne D. will contact Joe Williams to ask if KUA students would like to contribute to Green-Up. The students must do some type of community service project for graduation.
- Girl Scouts have been organized in the past to participate in this effort. Does anyone know a Girl Scout leader?

B) Website

- Mike Sutherland is eager to resume the “population” of our website.

C) Myra will reorganize the 2010 Plan of Work to reflect ideas discussed during this meeting.

D) The Plainfield Cider Orchard easement is complete. David G. and Myra F. attended the document signing ceremony at UVLT with Steve Wood.

E) David Taylor reminded the commission of the allocation of the memorial funds (approximately \$1000) donated by Helen Koehler (deceased husband George) for the

trailhead signage on Sanborn Road (aka Brunori/Sandmann). How are the Plainfield trailhead signs made? How do we make this sign happen?

F) The Report of the Conservation Commission for Town Meeting was agreed upon and forwarded to Steve Halleran.

3) New Business

A) Review Nomination of Plainfield Conservation Award.

- Myra suggested the nomination of Jeff Marsh for his lengthy dedication to the PCC.
- There being no other suggestions and agreement that Jeff would be ideal, Myra will gather information to make this award happen for Town Meeting, March 10, 2011.

B) There was discussion of exploring the storm water containment issue at the Town Garage. This is an “old” project that should be revisited and made to happen. There are issues of how to pay for this containment. Another issue is that our community should be aggressive with the preservation of the Penniman wetland adjacent to the garage and the Conservation Commission must be a leader in this effort.

4) Other Business

A) Outreach projects for community involvement and education.

- Fergusons can have an event at Hawkride Farm to educate our residents about invasives: buckthorn, Japanese barberry, honeysuckle, phragmites, etc.
- Learn more about the conservation of land process: Taylors and Fergusons have been through that process and conserved their lands.
- Trail walk on Brad Atwater’s land (aka Home Hill Trail) partnering with Plainfield Trailblazers and Upper Valley Trails Alliance (Kevin O’Leary and John Taylor).

5) Next Conservation Commission meeting (February 10, 2011)

A) Myra will be in Utah for this meeting. Can someone lead this meeting or should we postpone until March 2011? The agenda will be to discuss George Koehler trailhead, outreach suggestions, further plans for Green-Up Day, town garage storm water containment and how to make it happen, organize plans for Wildflower/McNamara dump site, etc.

6) Adjournment at 8:30 pm

* Green-up Day is traditionally scheduled when the snow melts along the sides of the roads and the “trash” is exposed.

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Minutes of the Conservation Commission meeting held on March 10, 2011
Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, Judy Ptak, Judy Hallam, David Grobe, Bill Knight, David Taylor, George Sandemann, Ron Eberhardt

1) The minutes of the January 13, 2011 meeting were approved as submitted

2) Old Business

A) David Grobe reviewed progress on Greenup Week preparations. Signup display will be at town meeting then reside in the town offices until event. Anne Donaghy has been in contact with Joe Williams of Kimball Union Academy regarding their participation. David and/or Anne will be in contact with Steve Halleran regarding town assistance with a focus event at the Wildflower Sanctuary turnout, with McNamara Dairy regarding timing and permissions, and follow up with both regarding a possible landscaping solution to the dumping problem.

B) Plan of Work reviewed, more detail under New Business (Outreach)

3) New Business

A) The commission welcomed Ron Eberhardt as our newest member

B) Nomination for Plainfield Conservation Award noted, to be presented at town meeting

C) Myra Ferguson indicated a willingness to serve another year in a Co-Chair capacity.

The second co-chair has not been identified. Members were reminded that secretary duties would be rotated among the members.

D) Outreach

1) Idea for CC hosting walks to educate selves and residents about natural resource issues was brainstormed. Judy Ptak will take the lead on organizing quarterly/seasonal outings.

2) Highway department operations vis-à-vis invasive species became a Plan of Work discussion. The following items were considered: a) highway department - invasive species, b) highway department - protection of wetlands adjacent to highway garage, c) cleanup/landscaping at wildflower sanctuary turnout, d) outreach projects (walks?), e) highway department - storm water and hazardous waste management at highway garage. Of the highway department "projects," it was decided to first tackle the wetland protection component. Bill Knight will initiate discussion with Steve Halleran.

E) LCIP monitoring procedures discussed

F) Hewes Field bleacher proposal noted, members concluded this is no longer our department

G) KUA donation of Covered Bridge swimming hole to town noted, only comment elicited was "do not post and cautionary signage" to avoid assuming liability

4) Other Business – a) Attendance at upcoming meeting of conservation commissions hosted by Upper Valley Land Trust was promoted. B) David Grobe will forward occasional emailed materials, members can decide for themselves if they would want to

5) Mail

6) Next Conservation Commission meeting – agenda planning: Expenditure of the George Koehler memorial donation to be discussed

7) The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

David Grobe

Plainfield Conservation Commission

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Minutes for the Conservation Commission meeting held at the Meriden Town Hall, 7PM on April 14, 2011

attendance: Myra, David T, David G, Bill, Anne, Ron

1. Presentation by Sarah Cavin, project manager at UVLT on process of land conservation. - start w/owner contacting UVLT, they consider conservation priorities, appraisal of land, consider funding, end result: UVLT is steward of the conservation restrictions. Jordan family has contacted UVLT about conserving Wond-R-View Farm \$3900 needed for an appraisal... landowners will put in 1K... CC is asked to decide if we'll put in the rest of money needed for appraisal. Hopefully do this in a month or so.

2. Green-Up Week April 18-23: Many signups for road trash pickup on our poster in Town Office!

David or Anne will contact Ken Stalker about opening up the town highway garage. Anne to make a flier advertising the hours for dumpster -- still 2-4pm Sat. Apr.

23

* addendum: KUA plans to do cleanup of Chellis Rd. and possibly Brook Rd. on Thurs. April 28th

Wildflower Sanctuary cleanup -- date to be May 7th, 10-12 cleanup and 12-1 wildflower walk&talk; Anne to confirm w/Leo Maslan about involvement of Boy Scouts; we're okay to bring a truck down on McNamara's field. David will talk w/town about this & has a friend who will come & give us names of wildflowers.

Chief Roberts sending us a few kids to do community work w/us. [The Boy Scouts and the Anti Boy Scouts!!]

* Talk w/Mike Sutherland about getting an announcement of both of these days on our town website (Anne), Bill will get this on the Plfd School website.

Anne get this to KUA. Anne get short piece on this Wildflower work day in PlainFacts in next week.

3. LCIP requirements -- monitoring -- Bill will do Walker easements again.

Anne to do Morgan Hill w/George... we get map from town office, Steve Walker will email us the forms via the PCC.

4. Discussion of Jordan proposal -- Start our May 12 meeting w/a public hearing. CC is unanimously in favor of donating to make the appraisal happen for Jordan land. (put article in May PlainFacts? - Myra will be in charge of getting word out)

Where do CC funds come from? We draw on both Forest Maintenance Fund and funds generated by Current Use Land penalties.

5. Discussion of Resource Inventory and CC... how do we access the software?

Arc view software used for manipulating the files. Very expensive though. Myra wondering if we can't find someone (KUA?) to print out mylar sheets of different RI material for us that we could overlay.

6. KUA donation. Mill Bridge, a natural and historical area. Valuable for historic and aesthetic reasons. It's assessed at 17K, pretty minor tax dollars for the town. CC is all in agreement on this. It will be town property, not CC as stewards. As long as land is not posted and is available the state will protect us against losses, if passive recreation.

7. March minutes approved.

adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Donaghy

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of May 12, 2011, regular meeting started at 7:21 pm from Public Hearing

Present: Ron Eberhardt, David Grobe, Judy Ptak, Judy Hallam, Bill Knight, George Sandmann, David Taylor, Myra Ferguson

- See Public Hearing minutes for discussion and adoption of related motion.
- Prior Minutes approved without correction.
- Discussion of success of Green Up Day project on River Road. Newly thrown garbage and tires during the 5 days before this meeting.

Possible Boy Scout project- Eagle Scout to plant and permanently close the River Road turnout at issue with the garbage throwing.

Conservation Commission had recommended to select board last fall to close parking off with rocks. Bill Knight to speak to Steve Halleran about closing turnout with rocks or soil until Scout Project is underway.

Someone to write article on the clean up for Plain Facts and other media.

CC to organize another clean up next year.

- Walker Trails LCIP Easement on the Walker Farm

Motion to reroute trails per flagging. Myra to email. CC envisions using alternate trail routes from easement to protect wildlife habitat. Map to be updated. George Sandmann recused. Motion passes.

- Judy Ptak on planning for seasonal activities- September-October for invasive species, February- March for organic lawn care, winter tracking. Discussion of how conservation easements could be promoted locally. January date? Amount of effort? Discussion of a wetlands visit sometime.
- Mylar overlay of town maps for resource maps. Steve Halleran has digital capabilities. Mike Sutherland to come next meeting to help. Internet access via password?
- Discussion of how to expend the Kohler fund.
- Motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Knight

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Minutes for meeting held June 9, 2011.

Members Present: M. Ferguson, D. Grobe, B. Knight, R. Eberhart, J. Ptak, J. Hallam, D. Taylor, Guest-M. Sutherland

- Mike Sutherland discussed with the members maps already in existence that might be used to create Mylar maps for overlay use. Will the maps be useful? Bill Knight offered to research more to see what has to be done to get maps updated then produced. David Grobe will show some maps at the next meeting.
 - Conservation Commission website: Mike showed the Conserv. Comm. section on the town website. More pictures are needed and more information is needed for some sections. Work schedule needs to be updated. Mike recommended the Commission submit agendas, imp. documents, meeting dates, etc. on a regular basis for placement on the town website.
 - Koehler Trust Fund: Bill Knight reported on plans for using the money donated in George Koehler's name. Parking lot on Sanborn Rd. will be improved by the town. The trails from Sanborn Rd. to Columbus Jordan Rd. need to be improved, named and private landowners need to be contacted for consent where trails cross private property. A trail to the Spencer Lot also has to be created. All trails can be accessed from the Sanborn Rd. parking lot. The Sanborn Rd. to Columbus Jordan Rd. trail will be called the George Koehler Trail. A kiosk will be located at the parking lot and a sign will be erected on Columbus Jordan Rd.
4. Sumners Falls: The NH Natural Heritage Bureau has asked the Commission to monitor the Sumners Falls natural area to check on endangered plants, etc.
 5. Wildflower Sanctuary Project: Is more work needed? Scouts have offered to do more work, if needed.
 6. Plan Of Work: Any changes needed?

7. Minutes of last meeting (May 12, 2011) were approved.

8. Next meeting: August 18

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Taylor

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Minutes of the Conservation Commission meeting held on Aug. 18, 2011
Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, Ron Eberhardt, David Grobe, Judy Ptak, Judy Hallam, Anne Donaghy

1) New Business:

Update on Southworth property: Ana Ford has said she would look at it, after report of activity (putting in a pond on wetland) there. No further updates at this point.

Update on Croydon Turnpike KUA timber plan: no activity there yet. CC members feel comfortable w/this proposed project, particularly with Erhard Frost, forester.

Update on Matt Jackson/Todd MacDonald properties on 12A: 2-3 acres of soil moved, no water bars or silt fencing with subsequent erosion of all this dirt downhill. now filling in wetland and trout pond on MacDonald property. Jackson property is now for sale. Jackson's mother has responded to the complaint, though unclear at this point what work can be done to ameliorate the problem.

Update on Ladieu Rd. timber cut Shulman 69 acres: Northern Timber hired to do work. (Shulman's on west side of Ladieu.) Owner Shulman gave a cease and desist order which wasn't immediately obeyed by Art Stout. Erosion, invasion of invasive species are concerns. Erhard Frost is now working on helping ameliorate.

Update on Ladieu Rd. timber cut Arthur West 77 acres: widow sold "timber rights" for the property to Art Stout of Northern Timber. Likely to have erosion damage and possible damage to Blood Brook. CC is powerless to intervene as long as landowner has contract with a company.

Question raised: Might it be possible to send out a letter to absentee landowners in town warning in general terms of these practices? We've been encouraged in past by selectboard to hold a workshop for landowners on good timber practices, to help them not fall prey to some less than desirable practices, and very successful workshop was done at KUA (100 attendees). Also many town residents would benefit from info on recent laws about water, land disturbance, timber tax.

Role of CC here? Clearly time to do some more community education/public service. Ron will work w/Rob Taylor to draft a possible letter to landowners... list of contacts available, suggest people ask for references when choosing a timber company. Goal of helping people make informed decision.

Broader community education: timber harvest factsheet resurrected & put on website, consider other resources as well.

Update on George Koehler trail: Robbie Williams will do the work, put in trailhead parking on Sanborn Rd., Bill Knight doing signage. (majority of money coming from donations given in George's memory). When to do dedication ceremony? Remind ourselves to set a date.

Autumn outreach event - Invasive species on Ferguson property. October is best time to spot the leaves. Set date at the Sept. meeting.

2) The minutes of the June 9 meeting were approved as submitted

3) Old Business: Followup on Mike Sutherland's software/mapping presentation: in view of how we would need to regularly use the skills and knowledge so as not to lose them, most of us not sure this is a good route for the CC to take.

Having the maps, however, would be very valuable. Contract out to professional for maps if and when we need them. Bill will have something to show us at next meeting.

Website text - quiet at moment, Mike on vacation.

Anne gave quick report from Welbourn Ecology conference at KUA - should be there again next year. Very positive.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm. Next meeting will be Sept. 8, 2011

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Minutes of the Conservation Commission meeting held on Sept. 8, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, Ron Eberhardt, Bill Knight, David Grobe, Judy Hallam, Judy Ptak, David Taylor, Anne Donaghy

Myra handed out pamphlets from UNH advertising some valuable conservation workshops in the next few weeks.

Anne reported using the UNH/NH wildlife sightings website to report a northern brown snake in an East Plainfield swamp/pond a few days ago.

1) New Business

- Letters to landowners r.e. timber sales - Ron talked w/Rob Taylor and Judy Belyea who are enthusiastic. The public is probably more attentive to letters directly addressed to them rather than a bulk mailing. (est. \$250 mailing) Do we want to do a workshop again, which we'd want to mention in our mailing.

We'll put our Timber Harvest Fact Sheet on the flip side of this letter (w/necessary updates/revisions).

Ron did quick read of letter - will send it on email to us for mass editing.

We can work on final draft at our next meeting. David G. will review and update the Timber Harvest Fact Sheet. We will also get Mike to put it on our website, w/ links.

Mailing expense out of our forest maintenance fund, perhaps?

Consider doing a winter workshop on timber sales, working with loggers.

Karen Bennett from the state will be in touch with Ron.

- Farnum lot: monitoring report sent to us from volunteer from UVLT. First time a report of trash on the lot -- is it new? or missed/unreported in past?

Are we responsible for the cleanup? It's town land, so we are. Steve H has said that if volunteers can get trash down to the road, a town truck can pick it up. Judy P will keep track of this and help us schedule a work time when it isn't wet in the woods - probably late May is the driest time.

- Time set for invasive species walk on Ferguson property. Sat. Oct.15 at 10-1 everyone bringing lunch & something to share. How to advertise? Locally but also include Cornish -- posters? town website on calendar, PlainFacts (by Sept.

20). Share your knowledge of flora and fauna with others, and learn from local naturalists. Advertise to NH Cooperative Extension folks and we might get someone from there to join us. David G. will call Wendy Ward. Also will give the date and event to UVLT for their website.

Trail dedication ceremony George Koehler trail - will wait until parking lot done with signage and kiosk, probably wait until next spring.

2) Minutes of the August 18 meeting were approved.

3) Old Business

- Any changes to plan of work? none at this point.

- Website - David T has a paragraph on Forestry for the website, with links to come off it. Judy P will have one on plants. Other topics to come as we get to them -- not on front burner right now.

- Discussion of recent use of small parking lot at Covered Bridge (Colby Hill Rd & Main St. intersection). That piece of land was KUA's but is in the process of becoming town land. But Steve H talked w/Jim Gray at KUA to suggest KUA suggest that the car parked there for weeks be moved. The selectboard is wondering if the CC wants to take role in "beautifying" this area with grass, plantings. CC feels stating "No overnight parking" could be enforceable, but it makes sense to allow people to continue to park there. Within 2 weeks this parcel will be town property and in that case the town could put up a "No overnight parking" sign.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm. Next meeting Oct. 13th.

Dear Plainfield Landowner:

We are sending you this letter because you own land in Plainfield.

If you are considering a timber harvest on your land, we would like for you to be aware of the following information, whether you plan to do the work yourself, contract with a forester, or hire a logger to do it. In your own best interest, the harvest should:

- Follow applicable law
- Employ sound environmental practices
- Provide you with a fair financial return

*Timber can be worth thousands of dollars. As such, it can be a tempting target for unscrupulous operators...Buying and selling forest products can be confusing and occasionally deception occurs. **

Several local landowners have recently been disappointed with timber harvesting work that they contracted to have done. Work may be within the terms of the contract, but if the contract is not specific enough, or is poorly written, the results may be very different from those envisioned by the owner. Hiring a professional forester to advise you will help you to maximize your financial return and insure that the work done meets your expectations. The UNH Cooperative Extension can provide you with a list of licensed foresters. Contact the UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry Information Center at 1-800-444-8978 to ask for this list and for other information related to selling timber.

The Plainfield Conservation Commission has prepared a **Timber Harvest Fact Sheet**, printed on the back of this letter. We urge you to read it and to make use of the information.

Should you have questions, please call one of the contacts listed on the fact sheet.

Plainfield Conservation Commission

***Guide to New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Laws (2009)**

Plainfield Conservation Commission

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Minutes of November 10, 2011

Present: Myra Ferguson, Ron Eberhardt, Dave Taylor, Dave Grobe, Bill Knight, Judy Ptak

Guest: Michael O'Leary

Minutes of October meeting approved.

M. O'Leary discussed the current effort to conserve 23.8 acres of the Schulman property. This property contains a large portion of the Hillard Brook Beaver Pond and adjacent wetlands. The owner is willing to donate the land but would like help with the \$10,000 required for the stewardship fund. The Conservation Commission feels this is a valuable wetland and would like to help in the effort to conserve this property. There was discussion about reconfiguring adjoining lots so more of the wetlands could be included in the conserved property. Possible ways to help with this conservation effort will be discussed further at our next meeting.

Timber Harvest Fact sheet was reviewed, D. Grobe will clarify the process involved with the timber tax. The fact sheet should then be ready for distribution after the holidays.

Outreach/educational activities: We discussed several options for public outreach/educational activities including;

- A forestry workshop to compliment the Timber Harvesting Fact sheet, possibly this summer with Karen Bennett. D. Grobe will explore possible topics with Karen.
- A workshop with a surveyor at the Benson Town Forest to learn how to read plot plans.
- A winter activity in conjunction with the "Pigout" - possibly something related to flood plain shrub lands with Wendy Ward. M. Ferguson will contact Wendy about this.

Began discussion of gating of Class 6 roads. Plainfield has not allowed gating of its Class 6 roads. There continues to be abuse of these roads resulting in damage to the roads and adjacent land. Discussion to be continued at our next meeting.

Bill Knight will share the Orford town mapping system with members of this committee. This seems to be the most viable option for Plainfield.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2011.

Submitted by Judy Ptak

Timber Harvest Fact Sheet...

...prepared by the Plainfield Conservation Commission to introduce residents to the local procedures and state laws regulating the harvesting of timber and to promote the conservation of natural resources and the practice of sustainable forest management in Plainfield. Please note that the landowner is ultimately responsible for obtaining the necessary permits and complying with the timber harvesting laws more thoroughly discussed in the reference materials listed below.

Notice of Intent to Cut: Timber is considered taxable real estate, with the tax payable when the timber is harvested. Prior to any timber harvest, an *Intent to Cut* form must be filed with the Town of Plainfield to notify local and state assessors that a timber harvest is planned. A *Report of Wood Cut* form is then sent to the landowner who uses it to document the type and volume of harvested timber. This report forms the basis for determining the timber yield tax which is typically paid by the landowner.

Wetlands and Alteration of Terrain Permitting: Timber harvesting operations which impact wetlands, including forested wetlands and surface waters, require a permit from the NH Department of Environmental Services. *The Notification of Forest Management or Timber Harvest Activities Having Minimum Wetlands Impact* satisfies the permit requirements for most timber harvests. The Conservation Commission reviews *Intent to Cut* notices and may suggest that additional permits be obtained. Forms are available at the town office or Department of Environmental Services website.

Basal Area Law: This law requires that one-half the volume of timber be left as a buffer along roads, streams, and bodies of water. The Shoreland Protection Act and the Plainfield zoning ordinance also regulate cutting within 150 feet of the Connecticut River. Variances may be requested.

Access: *Driveway permits* are required for all temporary or permanent “curb cuts.” Approval is required for work to upgrade class VI roads and operators may be liable for damages. Weight limits are imposed on all town roads during mud season. These local regulations are managed by the Board of Selectmen and Road Agent.

Contacts: Plainfield Town Office469-3201
Judy Belyea, Yield Tax Agent448-1689
Richard Collins, Road Agent.....469-3240
UNH Cooperative Extension, Sullivan County.....863-9200 or 1-800-444-8978

Resources: available at the Plainfield Town Office, the libraries, or on the internet
NH Division of Forests and Lands: www.nhdf.org
<http://www.nhdf.org/fire-control-and-law-enforcement/timber-harvest.aspx>
Guide to New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Laws
Best Management Practices for Erosion Control
Good Forestry in the Granite State www.goodforestry.org
NH Department of Environmental Services:
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/index.htm>
UNH Cooperative Extension: www.nhwoods.org

Assistance: Please contact the Plainfield Conservation Commission at pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Minutes of the Conservation Commission Dec. 8, 2011 meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7pm.

In attendance: R.Eberhardt, D.Grobe, B.Knight, M.Ferguson, J.Ptak, A.Donaghy, D.Taylor, J.Hallam.

- Minutes of Nov. 10, 2011 meeting approved.

- New Business:

Bill Knight presented interactive maps. Puts together all the resource inventory on file at Granite Mapping Base out of UNH extension (public files) puts into pdf file, easy to read w/any Adobe Reader. Map could be on town website for downloading or just could be browsed from there. The good thing is no training needed for using these maps! Once set up, the town map is relatively easy to maintain - yearly maintenance fee covers keeping it current. As soon as we ask for it, we probably could have it in a month or so. Planning commission could also find it useful. We'll get the estimated cost (sev. thousands, depending on number of features) and make this a budget item in the town budget. Bill has already talked w/Steve H about this software.

Class VI roads -- Selectboard has said they have authority to deny gates and bars on Class VI roads in our town. Some confusion amongst landowners on this. CC might include discussion of Class VI roads under our education/outreach? Included in this topic could be the old issue in town of damage by motorized wheeled vehicles during wet weather... how the vehicles cause the damage, why wise to limit use of these roads at certain times.

- NH Statute 229-5-s defines Class VI roads... highways not maintained by the town for 5 years or more, or discontinued, a landowner has right to enclose premises for his own benefit... "and made subject to gates and bars" (not statutorily defined) As we read the statute, it seems pretty clear Selectboard has authority to "regulate" gates and bars but not necessarily prevent them. Anne to tell Steve H we would like further discussion.

UVLT annual Conservation Commission get together Jan. 31. Our successful programs? aOur cleanup last Spring, and the berm seems to have helped the problem... Educational programs we're interested in? - what are other towns doing w/technology, mapping? also would like to hear about Cornish Community Farm project.

- Old Business:

Ladieu Rd. - update on Shulman property: owner not willing to take on the fundraising for conservation easement at this time, but when piece w/wetland gets sold, owner hopes the buyer will conserve it. Land Trust requires money to cover their stewardship into the future. CC is not able to put forth more money at this time.

- probably would not qualify for grant from q2c grant.

- Planning board approval for his lots still pending. Probably just 5 lots will comply w/road frontage and septic system requirements.

Status of other parcel on Ladieu Hill? very deep ruts; bank fairly close to Blood's Brook, but hopefully enough tree buffer to protect stream from soil runoff. State of NH is the sole enforcer of timber regulations... so far nothing can be done.

Nothing new on Jordan property. Still waiting on whether state funds coming

Forestry workshop still hopeful for late spring, early summer (Ron). Once scheduled (in a few weeks hopefully) we can get out the letter.

Possibly have a workshop on walking plot lines? Open to the public - educational outreach. Myra knows a few surveyors we might ask.

PigOut in Feb. at Plainfield School is a benefit for the trails. CC could be there to lead people on walks/skis nature education (shrubs identification/tracks/birds). True Riparian forest (about 5 acres) is right there along Blood Brook. Bill will be our go-between for the event to get us signed up. David Grobe will lead. Maybe also get Leo Maslan for trees. Fruit Key & Twig Key good book to use. Also the Fish & Game animal track cards would be good to have there. (David will write up list of small, cheap tools we can use)

POW: No changes.

Website: not much work going on right now as Mike Sutherland out of town & busy.

8:45pm meeting adjourned

Next scheduled meeting for CC is Jan. 12, 2012.

Minutes submitted by A. Donaghy