



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

MERRIMACK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AUGUST 18, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was held on Monday, August 18, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Merrimack Memorial Conference Room.

Chairman Tim Tenhave presided:

Members of the Commission Present: Matt Caron, Vice Chairman
Gage Perry
Michael Boisvert, Alternate
Lauren Kras, Alternate

Members of the Commission Absent: Thomas Lehman
Councilor Thomas Mahon
Robert Croatti, Alternate

Also in Attendance: Betsey McNaughten, Land Agent, NH Fish & Game
Jim Oehler, Wildlife Habitat Biologist, NH Fish & Game
Mrs. Jacqueline Thompson, 17 Powderhouse Road
Adam Jacobs, Operations Manager, Public Works Department
Paul Micali, Finance Director

Chairman Tenhave noted Commissioner Lehman was unable to be in attendance, and appointed Alternate members Boisvert and Kras to serve as voting members.

Chairman Tenhave informed the viewing audience of two full-time openings on the Commission. Individuals interested in serving in this capacity should contact Becky Thompson in the Town Manager's Office either via e-mail (BThompson@MerrimackNH.Gov) or phone (424-2331).

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPOINTMENTS

- 1. Visit with NH Fish and Game** Commission to receive an update on the recent timber harvest, related work, and illegal use of ATVs and dirt bikes at Dumping Brook Wildlife Management Area in North Merrimack.

Chairman Tenhave stated he contacted Mark Doyle, Police Chief, and made him aware of the agenda item. Ms. Betsey McNaughten, Land Agent, NH Fish & Game, stated NH Fish & Game owns the property referred to as the Dumping Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA). In advance of a recent timber harvest, open houses were conducted during which abutters expressed concern with illegal motorized use, e.g., ATVs, dirt bikes, and the likelihood that type of use would increase after the harvest.

Mr. James Oehler, Wildlife Habitat Biologist, NH Fish & Game, informed the Commission of his work with the Town to address illegal access off the Town sewer line. As a result, the access road into the WMA was gated. Boulders and drainage ditching on either side of the gate make it difficult to go around the gate. The Town

Council authorized the placement of barriers along the sewer line right-of-way, which was another main access point for illegal ATV activity. An unauthorized trail located along the F.E. Everett Turnpike has also been blocked.

ATV activity has decreased substantially, however, some activity continues. A few tracks can be seen going through the WMA and a good deal of activity along the power line right-of-way. Mr. Oehler spoke of dumping occurring in the section along Back River Road and illegal shooting in the sand pit. NH Fish & Game contacted National Grid, who owns the property in fee, to determine their willingness to block the access point. They seemed willing, but hesitant.

Ms. McNaughten stated she met with a representative of National Grid and together they walked into the property past the sub-division, and viewed dumping and noticeable use. A plan was being worked out for the blocking of that access. The representative appeared to be willing to move forward. After meeting with him, Ms. McNaughten went to the Police Department and spoke with an officer informing him of the intent to block the entrance, which the Police Department was supportive of. It was the Police Department that suggested she speak with the Planning Department. It was there that the suggestion was made that the matter be presented to the Conservation Commission. Ms. McNaughten commented she is not entirely sure why that suggestion was made as National Grid is the owner of the property, and has the right to gate it. Ms. McNaughten informed the Commission the last comments she received from a supervisor at National Grid was concern with conditions the Commission might put in place.

Chairman Tenhave stated he too was puzzled by the item coming before the Commission. Mr. Oehler noted adjoining land owners raised concerns to the power company years ago, which resulted in gates being installed along the right-of-way. When asked about the location of the proposed gates, Ms. McNaughten highlighted the area of the easement on a map. Commissioner Perry reiterated the gates are being placed on private property.

Commissioner Perry spoke of the barriers already placed on the sewer easement, with the Town's permission. Ms. McNaughten noted the Town has access to the sewer easements through the gates. When asked, Mr. Oehler stated, based on his antidotal observation, each time a barrier is placed a decrease in usage results. Ms. McNaughten commented what they cannot control is users who are able to gain access from their own backyards such as is the case with traffic coming off of Teakwood or Packard Estates.

Commissioner Perry remarked barriers could be placed to discourage access through a standard set of internal trails. Ms. McNaughten commented that would help with the dumping. Chairman Tenhave questioned whether National Grid is aware of what is being dumped in the area. Ms. McNaughten stated her belief they routinely visit the area. She spoke of having seen items such as couches, tires, etc. dumped in the area. She noted, in exchange for the blocking of the entry, NH Fish & Game intends to put up "no wheeled vehicles" signs along their boundary.

Vice Chairman Caron questioned why ATV use would be completely restricted. Ms. McNaughten spoke of a special use process to request landowner permission, which has to be undertaken per the NH Fish & Game rules for wildlife management areas. She commented they generally don't approve such requests. The primary target for the properties is wildlife habitat and wildlife. Their mission is that of maintaining wildlife habitat.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO SUPPORT THE INSTALLATION OF GATES AT BACK RIVER ROAD

MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

- 2. Visit with Mrs. Jacqueline Thompson, 17 Powderhouse Road** Commission to receive input, take questions and discuss the impact of the beaver activities to Mrs. Thompson's property. Members of Town Staff may also be present for the discussion.

Mrs. Jacqueline Thompson informed the Commission she had completed some paperwork and anticipated a response. After two months had passed, she went to speak with Director Micali. After receiving no response, she went to speak with the Town Manager, Eileen Cabanel, who stated she had viewed the area of the beaver dam, and believes a good job is being done. Mrs. Thompson questioned whether she had visited her residence, which is where all of the water is, and was informed she had not. Mrs. Thompson stated the Town Manager suggested she reach out to the Commission.

Chairman Tenhave questioned how Mrs. Thompson would like the Commission to be of assistance. Mrs. Thompson stated if the water were regulated correctly it might be lower and not on her property. She spoke of how wet her lawn is and her inability to mow what she described as a lawn that is spongy during times of rain. She stated the desire for her land to be lifted. She spoke of conversations that occurred last year, and her expectation Mr. Howe would do something.

When asked if she has spoken with Mr. Howe, Mrs. Thompson stated she has not. She stated her belief, it is because she is a woman that the Town is stepping on her and doing nothing for her. She stated her desire for her land to be fixed, and commented had she known the land she purchased 27 years ago would end up like it has she would have never purchased it. She requested something be done to raise her land. She provided photographs of the existing situation.

Commissioner Boisvert questioned how long the situation has been ongoing. Mrs. Thompson responded she has lived at her residence for 27 years, but did not know the problem existed. When asked if it has been ongoing for the past 27 years, she responded "maybe not". She added the water has killed some trees that were planted on her land.

Director Micali remarked the last time they spoke, he suggested Mrs. Thompson go to the Community Development Department to get assistance in filling out a Dredge & Fill Permit application for the State. He questioned whether she has heard back from the State. Mrs. Thompson stated she has not; she had assistance filling out the form, and has not heard back. She had questioned when the paperwork was filed, and was informed it was completed on May 22, 2014. When asked if it was filed with the State, Mrs. Thompson replied it was filed with the Community Development Department. Commissioner Perry commented the paperwork provided appears to be a service request for the Department of Public Works. Mrs. Thompson stated nothing else was done.

Director Micali spoke of ongoing work to develop a beaver management plan, which was discussed with Mrs. Thompson. He noted the Commission's consultant was before the Commission a few weeks prior discussing beaver management and current activities. Mrs. Thompson was informed there was the need to look into the beaver management plan for the area due to concerns removing the beaver from a particular location would simply force them into another. The work being conducted is to develop a management plan for the Town as a whole. He stated an understanding of the frustrating nature of the situation. He noted he, Mr. Jacobs, Operations Manager, Public Works Department, and Vice Chairman Caron accompanied the Town Manager when reviewing Mrs. Thompson's property and beaver activity. The prior day Mr. Jacob's crew had reduced the dam by about 6". During their visit they witnessed a beaver reconstructing the dam. He reiterated the management plan is in process. Mrs. Thompson questioned whether a solution would take another ten years to come to fruition. Director Micali stated his belief the plan would be completed shortly.

Commissioner Perry remarked the plan identifies ten areas in Town as the most problematic. Meadowood Pond is one of the ten. He noted a number of people have viewed the area including NH Fish & Game, and each have reached the same conclusion; there will have to be some leveling device and extensive trapping. Commissioner Perry stated preliminary information was received earlier in the day, and further information is anticipated.

Mrs. Thompson remarked that means they will not build up her land, and will leave it the way it is. Commissioner Perry reiterated the Dredge & Fill Permit application has to be completed by the landowner. Mrs. Thompson stated she went into the Community Development Department and had an employee fill it out. Commissioner Perry noted it was the advice of the Commission, last year that a permit application is filed. The Commission cannot fill the property. It can make a recommendation to the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Mrs. Thompson commented she understands very well she has to pay for what has to be done to the land. Commissioner Perry stated the only thing the Commission can look to do is control the level of the water.

Mrs. Thompson commented she pays her taxes every single year, twice a year, is by herself, and is confident if her husband were alive he would tell them where to go. She stated she believes in fighting for what is right, and questioned why she has to pay so much for taxes while she is losing land.

Chairman Tenhave remarked what the Commission is trying to do is figure out the best way to manage the beavers. Until that is determined there is nothing else than can be done. He noted when it comes to changing the level of her land that is controlled by the State, and is completely out of the control of the Commission. The

State gets to determine what can and cannot be done. Mrs. Thompson stated she was informed she would have to get a permit. Chairman Tenhave stated that permit cannot be obtained at Town Hall; the employees in the Community Development Department cannot fill out that permit for her. It is necessary for her or an engineer to fill out the permit application describing what she would like to have done, why she wishes to do it, and it has to meet all of the rules of the State. Mrs. Thompson stated she understands that.

Chairman Tenhave noted the application requires quite a bit of information. Once the permit is submitted it goes through the Commission for a recommendation, which can be done, but then it goes back to the State (NHDES) for them to decide whether or not to approve the project, modify it, etc. Once that is completed, it is up to the landowner to do the activity. He stated the Commission has no available funds or a means to fix private property.

Mrs. Thompson requested Chairman Tenhave write down everything he just stated for her. Chairman Tenhave offered to provide that information to her either by delivering it to her or mailing it to her. Mrs. Thompson stated her preference for the information to be provided by mail.

Mrs. Thompson reiterated there is a need to address her taxes; if losing land she should not be taxed on it. Chairman Tenhave stated there is a process for that, which can be addressed with the Town Assessor's Office or the matter could be taken to the Town Council as the Town Council is the Board of Assessors. Mrs. Thompson questioned when they meet, and was informed they meet every other Thursday. Chairman Tenhave noted the Town Council would likely ask that she speak first with the Assessing Department and that the necessary process be completed. Chairman Tenhave commented the abatement process is over for the year. Mrs. Thompson commented that has gone by as it has to be completed by April. Chairman Tenhave suggested she could prepare for next April. Mrs. Thompson stated she would.

Mrs. Thompson stated they didn't help her at all, again. Chairman Tenhave reiterated he would put his remarks in writing and provide them to her. He noted the Commission is working on trying to determine the best way to manage the water so it doesn't fluctuate up and down. Mrs. Thompson stated she was all done with the Commission, and departed.

Chairman Tenhave questioned whether anyone wished to bring up anything else relative to the agenda item. Director Micali requested he and Mr. Jacobs be copied on the communication so that the information could be filed appropriately.

Mr. Jacobs spoke of the public hearing conducted last year, and noted Mrs. Thompson was in the minority relative to opinions expressed on the water level. He stated his recollection the decision at the time was to wait and see how the State responded to a Dredge & Fill Permit application. Last year Mrs. Thompson seemed amenable to fill; however, does not seem as agreeable at this time. If they were going to grant a fill permit the direction would be to keep a higher level on the pond (perhaps at its current level). Because the department has not heard anything, it has been in a holding pattern. The beaver are relatively happy if the dam is not destroyed so there hasn't been a large fluctuation, although he is confident water is slowly creeping up. Mr. Jacobs stated from the point of Public Works, they would look to get a target level/actual elevation level. He stated the department has water rods they can put in, and perhaps as part of the beaver plan, they can get to that target, which should help. He reiterated they are awaiting information on a permit.

Chairman Tenhave stated he has been informally watching the level over the last few months, and believes it to be a few inches higher than it was last year at this time.

Commissioner Boisvert commented he was recently in Canada where he witnessed a few beaver ponds where a control pipe extended out of one of the dams as a means to maintain a level. They enclosed the pipe in a metal cage to keep the beaver from blocking it up. Commissioner Perry remarked the situation has been looked at by the Commission/Town and the national Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as well as GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. All seem to be of the same opinion there is the need for some kind of leveling device. The Clemson leveling device seems to be what everyone is gravitating towards. He remarked if done through APHIS, he is not sure permitting is required. At the moment, GZA is looking into requirements. Once the work is completed they will have to provide Mr. Jacobs with a level to aim for.

Commissioner Perry commented if the dam were not in place, the water would be 4' lower than it is (level of low drain). When asked what occurred when the sewer pipe was placed, Mr. Jacobs stated a notch was cut in the beaver dam to get the water low enough for work to be conducted safely, but then it was allowed to fill back up (1998). In '98 the beaver dam was approximately the same height as what is now the secondary

overflow/spillway; down probably 12-18" from where it is now. It has definitely come up since '98, but even in '98 it was there. He suggested Mrs. Thompson has been losing land at least since that time.

Director Micali stated his belief, during the public hearing, Mr. Howe had graciously offered, once the Dredge & Fill Permit were acquired, to provide assistance with the back fill of the property.

Commissioner Perry remarked, after the public hearing, Mr. Howe spoke with her as did he, regarding acquiring the permit. Chairman Tenhave remarked the Commission has the dilemma of determining what the level should be. Commissioner Perry spoke of the primary drain and overflow, and commented he would imagine, from a safety point of view, it was never intended for that water to go over the overflow. That would indicate to him the bottom of the overflow would be the maximum level the water should ever be at. There is 3-4' between there and the main drain. Within that there should be a level that could be identified, e.g., 1' below the bottom of the overflow.

When asked if GZA should be asked to identify the level, Commissioner Perry responded that is not their purview. Their responsibility is to identify a means for managing the beaver. That was an engineered system. Potentially, at some point in time, beaver could build a dam big enough where if there were a breach it would impact the sewer injector resulting in a safety issue. It is not until PWD deems the water level to be too high that they can go in and do something. The current policy says they cannot act until the Commission provides that authority, unless an emergency situation exists.

Commissioner Perry stated the Commission should identify a level. Mr. Jacobs commented unless there is an engineered control device or no beaver it is pointless to try to maintain a 1' change. That could not be maintained last year with any kind of regularity without being onsite every single day. Mr. Jacobs stated his opinion the steps that need to be followed are the filing of a Dredge & Fill Permit application to determine if that is an option, and, if not, a level needs to be identified, which is lower than the current level. If a level and a control device are in place to maintain the level it will keep the residents happy. He commented he did not believe those that attended the public hearing last year were opposed to a lower level; they simply wished the level to be consistent.

Director Micali spoke of having gone out to bid (6 months earlier) for a contractor to put the device in. APHIS then came in and provided a price quote to notch it and put it in to keep the water at a certain level. Knowing a contract was in place for beaver management, once GZA's findings are provided, the Town is prepared to look to APHIS to be placed on their schedule. Chairman Tenhave stated he is most interested in receiving the study from GZA as he does not wish to proceed without understanding the impact(s). Commissioner Perry remarked the area behind Madison was heavily trapped last year. That effort has kept the water level pretty consistent. He suggested that same approach could be taken as a means of buying additional time. Chairman Tenhave reiterated his preference to wait for the study, particularly given the expectation it will be provided within the next month or so. It was noted, if the device could be placed before the water ices over, the desired level will be present in the spring, which would eliminate the mud that results when reducing the water level. Director Micali stated APHIS could be contacted to determine their availability in the October/November timeframe.

Commissioner Perry stated he could reach out to GZA and request they provide information on the top ten areas in advance of a complete study.

STATUTORY/ADVISORY BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Template for Forestry Plans** Commission to review, discuss, and decide on path forward in generating a template to be used in future Forestry Plans.

Commissioner Kras spoke of the draft outline provided in advance of the meeting, and requested feedback. The following amendments were recommended:

- Under Section II a. ii; classify "other lands", e.g., commercial, residential, woodlands, etc.
- Under Section II c.; add "v. Parking Areas"
- Renumber Section II f. v. as Section III and 1 & 2 as a. and b.

Chairman Tenhave commented the outline goes beyond what has been done for a traditional forestry plan, and questioned whether that is the correct reference for the document. Commissioner Kras stated her opinion it is the Property Management Plan, which includes a forestry component.

- Change the title of the document to Property Management Plan

Chairman Tenhave questioned the will of the Commission with regard to which property should be utilized as a trial for the template, and suggested the Wasserman Conservation Area. He stated his concern with Fields Farm to be the adjacent property, which will see some major change and may impact the Commission. Commissioner Kras commented, for some properties, the information may be gained through the sub-committees rather than an external entity. Chairman Tenhave stated the Forester could contribute to some of the information required, e.g., timber quality, etc. and the Commission itself should be able to provide historical information, access, etc.

It was noted the plan could be revised based on the property it is applied to, e.g., some properties may be geared more towards preservation and the recreation component could be less significant or removed altogether.

The consensus of the Commission was to adopt the outline, as amended, as the formal outline for a Property Management Plan.

Commissioner Kras suggested the outline be forwarded to the sub-committees and a request made for work to begin on components where data collection can easily be performed by the sub-committees. It was also suggested the outline be on hand during site visits to document what is viewed.

Chairman Tenhave commented it is likely the components already exist in documents previously generated for Grater Woods and the Horse Hill Nature Preserve (HHNP). Of the other properties the only one having a sub-committee in place would be Wildcat Falls. The remainder of the data collection would fall upon the Commission or outside entities.

Commissioner Kras spoke of the importance of boundary information, and suggested that may be something the Commission may want to consider doing. Chairman Tenhave remarked the HHNP Sub-Committee has been monitoring certain sections of the boundary and have marked some sections. It is an ongoing project, which has been on hold for some time as individuals who signed up to do the work have been unable to follow through. It was all done at one time (when the property was purchased) and again by the Forester when forestry work was completed. Commissioner Perry noted the original boundaries of Grater Woods are marked. Vice Chairman Caron noted new properties added on were not marked.

- Add III c. "Reoccurring Maintenance Activities"

General agreement was expressed with the suggestion of forwarding the outline to the sub-committees. Vice Chairman Caron stated a desire to utilize the outline to put a plan in place for the Fields Farm property, and stated a willingness to lead the effort. He acknowledged the need to put the effort on the back burner while other factors reach resolution.

Commissioner Kras commented, when acquiring additional land, the Commission may wish to require a management plan be put in place as part of the acquisition, e.g., within a set timeframe. Vice Chairman Caron suggested the outline could be utilized as a reference for an initial assessment prior to purchase. Chairman Tenhave agreed there would be a benefit to gaining historical information from current owners before such a connection is lost.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Beaver Management Study – Update

Commissioner Perry stated preliminary draft information is available. A model has been made and applied to the topography and stream data to see how well it worked. It came up with a number of the areas the Commission has highlighted as problem areas indicating the model is working well. There remains some tweaking to be done. Work will continue on that. There is already a substantial map of potential problem areas.

GZA has been able to get into most of the areas, although they don't fly the drone beyond their line of site. They have taken some great photos, which will be made available to the Commission. GZA has expressed the desire to appear before the Commission at its next meeting to present the information that has been collected to date and provide an update as to the status of the overall project. Chairman Tenhave stated the desire to receive an update; however, noted the agenda will be heavy.

- Invasive Plants at Brookside Drive – Upcoming Public Hearing

Chairman Tenhave stated he has been in communication with the Forester who is processing the permit with NHDES to allow for spraying in the area of the water. He has also been working with the Town to get the vehicles, trailers, landscaping materials, etc. that are located on the property removed. An informational meeting will be scheduled for September 15th and the neighbors invited to attend to learn of the process and address any concerns they may have.

Chairman Tenhave noted the process of spraying is very safe for the applicators as well as anyone else that might wander into the area. Part of the reasoning for conducting an informational meeting is to provide that reassurance there is nothing that will take place that will pose a danger. It was noted the only protective material required for the applicators would be gloves.

Chairman Tenhave informed the Commission of his efforts along with those of Sue Holstein, Secretary, Community Development Department, to send out a mailing to all residents living from 1 to 20 or 30 Brookside Drive. The areas being addressed are between 8-12 Brookside Drive. He questioned the will of the Commission with regard to the area of notification.

Commissioner Perry stated a desire for the notification to be broad simply to ensure awareness of what is occurring as well as the issue of invasives. He agreed with notification all the way out to Patten Road. It was suggested a map be included in the notification. Chairman Tenhave stated the notice would likely be put out between 10-15 days in advance of the meeting. As the meeting is educational in nature and not legally required, there is no requirement relative to advance notification.

Chairman Tenhave spoke of 8 Brookside Drive, and informed the Commission the issue of the neighbor being impacted by the invasives is being worked. The Town Manager has been assisting him with that issue. When asked if the homeowner has the ability to be directly involved in additional spraying, e.g., independently hire Bay State Forestry, Chairman Tenhave stated the homeowner could. He noted he has spoken with the homeowner who contacted someone to do that kind of work a while back. The homeowner's intent was to have the material removed after spraying, which is not something the Commission was planning on doing on its property. The price tag that was placed on that entire activity was more than the homeowner was willing to spend at that time.

When asked about the cost to the homeowner should the Forester be able to include that property in the spraying, Chairman Tenhave responded the Forester has stated it to cost approximately \$100.00 an hour with the expectation it would require an additional 1-2 hours to include the neighboring property. That quote is based on the Forester already being in the area and having the necessary equipment, etc. Chairman Tenhave stated what is being looked into is whether there is liability for the Town by not doing anything or by doing something on private property and whether a precedent would be set by spending Town funds on private property for this activity. The initial thought is there is a problem with invasives, and if the Town does not address the neighboring property the problem would resurface rather quickly. Commissioner Perry stated his approach would be for the homeowner to hire the Forester for two hours while he is onsite.

- Update on Sign for Wildcat Falls

Vice Chairman Caron stated the sign is finished and waiting to be picked up. The cost is \$86.00. When asked if the sign would be resistant to graffiti, Vice Chairman Caron stated it would not. The contractor utilized does not have that material. The cost for the material alone would have exceeded \$100.

Commissioner Kras suggested covering the sign in a thin sheet of plastic which could be removed if necessary. Commissioner Perry agreed, and suggested using epoxy that could be poured on the sign. Vice Chairman Caron suggested the sign could be placed higher on the tree. Chairman Tenhave remarked he liked the idea of spraying it with a clear lacquer, etc., before placement. Vice Chairman Caron stated he would pick the sign up the

following day. Commissioner Perry suggested a piece of Lexan could be adhered to the sign dependent upon cost.

Chairman Tenhave informed the Commission Newton Coryell received a call from an individual known to him who has 14-22 older creosote telephone poles (17' +/- 5' in length). The individual is trying to sell the property the poles are located on, and would like them removed. The Commission has until late October to decide whether or not it desires the poles and, if so, where they should be placed. Mr. Jacobs has stated he could find a place to store them. Chairman Tenhave questioned whether the Commission wished to obtain the old creosote telephone poles for use in future bridge projects. Vice Chairman Caron commented it is likely the creosote is wherever the poles were located and wouldn't be with the poles. When asked if there are any environmental issues/laws relative to using those in water, Vice Chairman Caron stated his belief NHDES would not allow their use in a bridge project if they would ever touch the water. When filling out a bridge permit the question is posed about the material to be used. If utilizing telephone poles they require the manufacture date stamped on the pole. Mr. Coryell checked into a few places that would haul the poles to Merrimack. Prices were between \$350 and \$400. Commissioner Boisvert stated his initial feeling to be to pass on the offer. Commissioner Perry state concern with liability, and commented creosote poles have not been used to construct bridges for some time. Vice Chairman Caron stated the last bridge constructed at the HHNP was constructed utilizing green poles.

The consensus of the Commission was to acknowledge appreciation, but pass on the opportunity.

Chairman Tenhave displayed photos of the new bench at the HHNP. The Harold Watson Bench was placed near the Bradish Bridge off of the loop trail. Mr. Coryell is working with the Watson family to identify a date for the dedication. Once known, the Commission will be informed.

Chairman Tenhave spoke of a representative of the League of Conservation Voters who spoke at the HHNP Sub-Committee meeting and provided information on some of the league's activities.

An updated map of the HHNP, which includes GPS coordinates for the posts, has been posted to the website.

Chairman Tenhave noted different publications he is in receipt of, which are available for review by the Commission. Chairman Tenhave reminded the Commission of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions meeting, which will occur on the first Saturday in November.

Commissioner Perry noted on September 12, 2014 the Commission is hosting a UNH beaver workshop for Conservation Commissioners. It will take place in the Matthew Thornton Room from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. He stated the desire to expend some funds on refreshments.

The Commission stated agreement with the expenditure of funds for this activity.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES

Merrimack Conservation Commission. August 4, 2014

The following amendments were offered:

Page 2, Line 41; replace "expectation" with "expected"
Page 2, Line 42; add the word "in" between "included" and "the"
Page 6, Line 4; replace "brining" with "bringing"
Page 7, Line 46; replace "Hanson" with "Hamson"
Page 8, Line 10; replace "considering" with "considered"
Page 8, Line 17; add the word "Old" before "Blood Road"
Page 8, Line 16; replace "Beebe" with "Bambee"
Page 2, Line 15; replace "fall" with "wall"
Page 4, Line 24; replace "is" with "was"
Page 5, Line 42; delete the words "it should not"

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TENHAVE TO ACCEPT AS AMENDED
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARON
MOTION CARRIED
4-0-1**

Commissioner Boisvert Abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CARON TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOISVERT
MOTION CARRIED
5-0-0**

The August 18, 2014 meeting of the Merrimack Conservation Commission was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan