

Conservation Land Review Committee
Town Hall
May 27, 2009
Minutes

A quorum was present: Chairman Gary Langenbach, Pine duBois, Barry Mathias, and Sue Chamberlain

Meeting was called to order 7:15 p.m.

The minutes of the March 18, 2009 and the April 29, 2009 meetings were approved.

REPORTS and COMMENT:

Gary wrote to the Selectmen asking for permission to get the forest management plan underway and to get a new representative for the committee. Since the Finance Committee is not going to send anyone, Gary asked if the makeup of the committee could be changed to include a member of the Recreation Commission.

Pine reported that she spoke with Steve Ouellette. He had some success at Myles Standish State Forest with a recent increase in surveillance and fines. He recommended posting the area first with signage that includes penalties. Work with the police. Post along Raboth Road, the tunnel, and all other access points. Find out then the OHV's are there. Check at the Smelt Pond parking area. Get the Environmental Police there on a weekend once we are sure when the OHV's are there. Steve recently had good luck – caught 40 and cited 16.

When restricting vehicles at Camp Nekon, it will be important to see if Camp Nekon counts as conservation land. Selectmen will be asked to count it as conservation land for the purpose of protecting it from OHV's. Or create a by-law that will protect open space or public town-owned land.

Also Selectmen will be asked to have the gate just off Rt. 80 locked.

Gary will get a picture of conservation signs from Maureen to determine if they will be sufficient. Sue will get a copy of the applicable by-law. These should be attached to a letter to the Town Administrator to discuss how to enforce unauthorized vehicle at Camp Nekon. Extra signs should be made to cover damage that is bound to take place.

Management of Camp Nekon will be very important with the building of 1021 Kingston Place. Advertising for the new development highlights access to the pond for swimming, etc. There is an outside chance that Fish and Wildlife might carry the CR. The town could reserve the right to use Smelt Pond, manage trail maintenance, etc.

Camp Nekon should consist of several different management areas: recreational trails, large ponds, resource areas, roads, etc. Find out the costs to maintain, the man hours needed, the restrictions, etc. For instance, check with Paul Bassler to find out what is involved with road maintenance: manpower, stone and other material, machinery, cost, etc.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Barry will ask Mason revise the scope of his work (and send it to the committee via email) based on the \$3,000 awarded from the Sampson Fund. Let him know the money will be coming in July. To ensure that both the plan and the bounds are taken care of, a vote to ask Open Space to help was taken.

VOTES

On motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To ask the chairman of the Open Space Committee to encumber the remaining approximately \$2200 in the land management portion of their budget to provide funding for setting and checking the bounds and for signage where it matters most, at the OHV access points of Camp Nekon.

NEXT ACTIONS:

Gary: send Pine Camp Nekon and Cranberry Reserve most current management plans so she can append the Pine Brook information.

Pine: get coordinates for the hot spots and talk to chairman of Open Space Committee about encumbering funds.

Gary: get sign language and a picture of a sign if possible discussion with Town Administrator.

Sue: get bylaw wording from Town website.

Gary or Pine: Set up meeting with Jill once bylaw and sign information are in hand.

Barry: Call Austin Mason and see if he will throw in the bounds as part of his scope of work or see how he can adjust his scope of work giving the smaller budget. Ask him to send it in writing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.