

Town of Groton Conservation Commission
754 North Groton Road
Groton, NH 03241

Meeting Minutes from April 17, 2014

The Groton Conservation Commission convened at 7:10 PM. Members in attendance were Robert Ferriere, Miles Sinclair, Steve (Slim) Spafford and Nancy Watson.

Chuck Stata attended as an unofficial member and Louis Lieto was absent.

Clarification of the roles of CC members who are also Select Board members was discussed. Miles will continue as Select Board liaison. In Bob's case, the LGC said it might be a conflict of interest to have both a member of the CC and Select Board serve in both capacities. It is sometimes difficult to obtain a quorum. However, a quorum is necessary for a meeting, but not necessary for a vote. Bob can recuse himself if he feels there is a conflict on a voting matter. It was decided Bob would remain a voting member.

Slim will discuss his reappointment as Planning Board representative for the CC with the Planning Board when they meet in two weeks.

Chuck agreed to attend CC meetings as an unofficial member. He felt there might be a conflict of interest with his current membership on the KHPAC. He will wait and see which direction matters with the KHPAC take and will submit his name to the Select Board if he chooses to become an official member of the CC.

Lou has served one year of a three-year term and will continue as Chairman. A clarification was made that Bob's position will be a three year term. Lou has requested Bob continue in the capacity of Vice Chairman. Chuck will replace Paula with a three-year term and agreed to be Co-Secretary. Nancy will continue as Co-Secretary and has one year left to serve of a two-year term. The positions and terms were discussed and agreed upon, with no official nomination or vote. Slim will ask Jo O'Connor to include a request for new CC members in her newspaper column.

The date for the fishing derby was set for June 7th. This is the first Saturday in June, as well as "free fishing day" in New Hampshire. It is a light day for Conservation Officers and the CC will request one to be present for the derby. The fishing will begin at 9:00 AM for the first age group.

Based on past experience, the fish order needs to be placed by May 1st. Two hundred 10 to 12 inch trout will be ordered. Slim spoke to Don Miller from the New Hampton Fish Hatchery. He referred Slim to Vicky Leonard in Concord, who oversees all the fishing events for the state. She provided a copy of the rules. The state will provide a stocking match of 50% for a derby in which participants are age 15 and under.

Slim shared a flyer from the Belknap County Conservation District fish and tree sale. Fish can be purchased through a variety of local hatcheries that offer delivery for pond stocking. The price for fifty 10 to 12 inch trout is \$190. It was agreed Slim would decide on the supplier and follow through with the fish order. He will ask Pam Hamel to prepare a check for the Select Board to sign.

Slim completed the state application for a “Permit To Conduct A Kids Trout Fishing Derby”. The application includes notification to the Fish and Game Department. He will ask Jo O’Connor to publicize the event in her newspaper column.

Bob obtained suggestions from Gordon Corsey, who ran the previous derbies. A decision was made to have three trophies for each age group, consisting of ages 1 - 6, 7 - 10 and 11 - 15. Buttons, ribbons or other small tokens will be provided to all participants. The winner of the tagged fish will receive a savings bond, which Bob will secure. Bob will check on purchasing trophies from the previous supplier, the cost of which ran approximately \$100 in the past. He will inquire about the tokens. Bob will update an old derby flyer and have copies made to post in the region.

Miles will contact the Chases about having a sign made to identify the Groton Town Pond.

The Celebration of the Groton Town Pond re-opening and “thank you” to the road agent and crew for the bridge construction was delegated to Lou. The formalities will be held during the derby event. Fishing will be open to all age groups at the close of the derby.

Nancy will be in charge of refreshments/snacks.

The discussion of Town properties was tabled until the next CC meeting. A suggestion was made to tour the properties when the weather is warmer.

The report from those attending the “Saving Special Places” program was tabled until the next CC meeting.

The next CC meeting was confirmed for May 8th at 7:00 PM.

New Business – Lou and Chuck met with professors at PSC regarding the cataloguing of wetlands, wildlife, etc. The USDA looks more favorably on providing grants to towns where there is such activity on town property. A suggestion was made to invite the professors to visit the more appropriate town properties. This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Bob moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. Slim seconded. The motion passed Yes – 4, No – 0, Absent – 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Watson
Conservation Commission Co-Secretary
April 22, 2014