

Allenstown Conservation Commission

Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Allenstown Town Hall

Minutes

The meeting began at 7:00 pm (however, it was not formally opened)

Commissioners Present: Jenna Gray, Al Heavey, Dave Evans and Laura Bonk. 16 Citizens were present and Joe Edgerton from The Hooksett Banner.

1. 2 Albin Ave—car-top boat launch and town park

Between 7:00 p.m. and 7:50 p.m. several citizens spoke at length about the Allenstown owned land at 2 Albin Ave. along the Suncook River in Allenstown. It is believed that all the citizens in attendance lived on Albin Ave., Pine Acres Rd., and Summers Ave. (however, this information was not verified). Many comments were raised by members of the public in attendance. The list below is an attempt to summarize their concerns:

- i. Residents of Albin Ave., Pine Acres Rd., and Summers Ave., believe that their deeds entitle them to exclusive use of the town-owned land at 2 Albin Ave. They believe that this parcel is not legally available for use by other town residents.
- ii. The residents do not want to hire an attorney to resolve this issue. They want the Allenstown Town Attorney (Biron Bedard) to comment on this matter.
- iii. The residents are concerned that if this land is available to others there will be excessive traffic on their streets.
- iv. The residents are concerned that if this land is available to others there will be speeding traffic on their streets which will harm children.
- v. The residents are concerned that if this land is available to others there will be “partying” with illegal drug and alcohol use.
- vi. The residents are concerned that if this land is available to others there will be excessive noise in their neighborhood.
- vii. The residents are concerned that if this land is available to others there will be excessive trash on their streets. Several years ago there was a trash can at the site which was not emptied by the Allenstown Department of Public Works.

Members of the Allenstown Conservation Commission also spoke at length. The list below is an attempt to summarize their comments:

- i. Allenstown residents from other areas currently use the land as a canoe and kayak launch. For the past several years, there hasn't been any problems. It is believed that no one has been reported to the police for problems.
- ii. There are no current plans to develop the area for swimming. The plans are for fishing, picnicking, and launching canoes and kayaks. Boats on trailers will not be allowed.
- iii. Allenstown cannot discriminate against members of the Allenstown community. The land is either available to all Allenstown residents or it is posted “No Trespassing” and it is not available to anyone.
- iv. The town owned cul-de-sac can safely fit 4 to 5 cars. No parking signs can be posted along Albin Ave. for cars that cannot fit around the cul-de-sac. The conservation commissioners do not believe that more than 5 cars will ever be there at once.

- v. It is possible to limit parking to Allenstown only residents.
- vi. A street light can be installed to discourage ‘partying’.
- vii. The police can enforce any improper behavior. The rules for a town park are strict.
- viii. A speed bump can be installed.
- ix. It was noted that ‘partying’ and trash are not a problem at Catamount Pond in Bear Brook State Park.

The Selectmen’s letter dated September 13, 2005 was read to the public. 15 copies of this letter was distributed to the Conservation Commissioners and members of the public.

The following motions were made by A. Heavey and seconded by D. Evans:

- 1) To complete the NH Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Permit Application and receive this wetlands permit.
- 2) To consult legal counsel regarding public access to 2 Albin Ave.
- 3) To delay any site construction until the two motions above are resolved.

All 3 motions passed unanimously.

Action Items:

- ✓ L. Bonk will complete 1)
- ✓ J. Gray will complete 2)

2. Approve the minutes of the 08/10/05 meeting.

An error was noted in the River Clean-Up section—B.B.S.P. and Americorps were to be deleted.

Motion to approve the minutes of 08/10/05 as amended by D. Evans, seconded by A. Heavey. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 3rd Annual Suncook River Cleanup

The river cleanup was August 20, 2005 from 10 am – 12 pm. There were 8 participants including 3 from the Merrimack County Diversion Program. The areas cleaned were the confluence of the Suncook and Merrimack Rivers on both the Allenstown and Pembroke sides. Also, a crew cleaned the town-owned land at 2 Albin Ave. and the area upstream from this parcel. Two tires and 8 large bags of trash were removed from the confluence of the rivers. No trash was found at 2 Albin Ave. and the area upstream had very little trash.

4. Adopt-A-Highway program.

There was some discussion surrounding this program for Allenstown. D. Evans agreed to contact them regarding roads in Allenstown.

5. Coverts Workshop

J. Gray reported on the Coverts Workshop she attended for 3 days in early September. UNH Cooperative Extension sponsors this course. She said that there were great speakers, lots of materials, and interested field trips. She recommends this course.

6. Gas Pipeline Repair Project—Confluence of Suncook and Merrimack Rivers.

In early September, L. Bonk met with 2 representatives of Tennessee Gas Pipeline (an El Paso Company) and an environmental consultant of the BSC Group. The meeting was on the Allenstown-owned land at the confluence of the Suncook and Merrimack River. Tennessee Gas Pipeline has an easement across this land. To protect a 1965 gas pipeline from corrosion, they must replace the anodes in the bed of the Suncook River. This project was discussed at length.

A trip was also made to the hydroelectric dam operators (Essex Power) at China Mill. L. Bonk was satisfied that the NH DES wetlands permit application was thorough and accurate. Tennessee Gas Pipeline also agreed to help with an invasive species removal on this parcel at a later date.

7. Welcome to Allenstown Signs

J. Gray reported that a letter was received from NH DOT as to where the signs can be installed on Allenstown highways.

Action Items:

- ✓ J. Gray will follow-through with NH DOT, Dig Safe, and Armand Verville

8. 14 Albin Ave. illegal discharge into the Suncook River.

3 photos were received from a neighbor of 14 Albin Ave. illustrating a soapy discharge into the Suncook River. These photos were given to L. Bonk for follow-through. On August 20th during the Suncook River cleanup 3 volunteers also witnessed this discharge.

Action Items:

- ✓ L. Bonk will send the photos and a letter to NH DES. The residents of 14 Albin Ave. will be copied on this letter as well as Allenstown's Code Enforcement officer.

9. Announcements

- In mid-September Pack Monadnock is a good place to view raptor migrations.
- A woodlot and wildlife management course is offered by UNH Cooperative Extension. The dates of the course are Sept. 19th-23rd.
- On September 24th, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is sponsoring a hike in Pawtuckaway State Park to view raptors.
- On Monday, Sept. 28th the Conservation Commissioners are invited to the Selectmen's meeting to discuss the new fiscal year budget.
- Saturday, October 1, 2005 is the Solar Home Tour. Contact the Northeast Solar Energy Association.
- Bear Brook State Park Trails Day is schedule for October 2, 2005. All volunteers should meet at the kiosk on Deerfield Rd. at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Kathy Evans at 226-1975.
- The alewife run in the Suncook River is sometime in October.

10. Review, Process and Distribute Mail Received

Letters/Announcements/Newsletters were received from:			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Sender</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Action</u>
8/15/05	Comp.Environmental Inc.	Stormwater Workshop	
8/20/05	NNH DOT	Approval for sign locations	
8/22/05	NH DES	Pre-posal,Watershed Grants	
9/06/05	Tennessee Gas Pipeline	Ltr:Groundbed Replacement	
9/06/05	Allenstown Budget Committee	Minutes, 8/18/05 mtg	
9/12/05	Comprehensive Environmental Inc	Stormwater workshop	
9/12/05	NH Lakes Association	August Newsletter"Lakeside"	
9/12/05	FOSR	Annual Mtg reminder 9/21/05	

11. Confirmed Next Meeting:

- Wed., October 14, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Allenstown Town Hall