

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2008

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David Lage (L), Freddi Kazo, Betsy Thoms, Dan Daly, Jack Messe, David McTigue (M), Joanne Meshna
ABSENT: Doug Waitt, Harvey Green, Bill Watkinson

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

Freddi made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2007 meeting. David M. seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Open Space: Doug is working on an amendment to the cluster regulations. Freddi is preparing the flyer to be mailed to landowners on placing of land into conservation easements. David L. asked for a copy of the list of those the flyer will be mailed to for the Selectmen.

Trails: Jack and David M. will monitor the Currier property. Bob noted that Dixie Rhoads may only put the land on the 55 and older lot into easement with the Monadnock Conservancy. If that process takes too long, Bob and Jack will monitor the conservation easement.

Lands: Dan distributed a "Conservation Lands Management Petition Policy". The policy sets out the process for review of prospective public uses of properties held in conservation easement. Members were asked to review the policy for discussion at the next meeting.

Communications: For the next meeting, Freddi will have a draft of the flyer to be sent town-wide regarding the Commission. She is also working on a two-part Green Sheet, the first to be on stone walls and the second on wildlife and stone walls. She will send the drafts to Bob for his review.

New Business: Bob received an e-mail from Patricia Lage, an abutter to the 1808 House, 586 Turnpike Road. She was concerned about encroachment on the wetlands in back of the 1808. She will be filing a complaint with the State.

At 8:00 p.m. Jonathan Sawyer addressed the Commission regarding taping of sugar maples on the Johnson property. Mr. Sawyer has a small commercial maple sugar business. He stated that there is a stand of about 70 trees on the lot that he would like to tap and explained how the taping would be done. Members discussed the use of town land for private enterprise and the precedent it might set. The town would not receive any benefit from the taping. It was suggested that Mr. Sawyer could plant new sugar maples in exchange. Also discussed was the need to look at easements to determine the original intent of the owner.

Mr. Sawyer would be interested in a 5-10 year commitment by the Commission. He noted that the Master Plan encourages small businesses and his is one that involves no harm to the trees, no pesticides or fertilizers. Members noted that the plastic lines for sugaring can detract from the visible enjoyment.

The Commission will discuss the request, vote on the request and inform Mr. Sawyer in writing of that decision.

Bob distributed a copy of a draft of a ten year lease with Barrett Hill Farm. With a ten year lease, town meeting approval is required. It was suggested that the lease be for three years. Bob will contact Matt Leclair to see if he would agree to the three year lease.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary