

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2007

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Doug Waite, Harvey Green, David McTigue,
Friederike Kazo, Joanne Meshna
ABSENT: Jack Messe, Dan Daly

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

Doug made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2007 meeting. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 7:45 p.m. a public hearing was held for the purpose of purchasing a tertiary conservation easement on a portion of the Hampshire Country School property using \$9,000 from the Conservation Commission conservation fund. Mr. Al Jenks was present and discussed the need for a parking area and access to the Wapack Trail. Public access is limited at the Hampshire County School. Bob will contact Brett Kivela, Pratt Pond Association, regarding the donation or purchase of an easement. Bob and Joanne will review the tax maps for the abutters to the trail; they could then be approached regarding access. New England Forest Foundation owns property that could serve as access and could be contacted. Bob stated that he had met with the Board of Selectmen and it had been agreed that at this time the Commission will pledge the \$9,000 and at the end of phase 1 of the campaign in December when the easement is given to the town, the check will be cut and given to the campaign.

At 8:00 p.m. Mr. Ed Rogers, Rogers Engineering Solutions, addressed the Commission. He discussed the possibility of a trail on the property of George Standley located on Thayer Road. The potential entrance to the trail is located across from the entrance to the dam site so there is a parking area available. There is a historical mill located on the property. The landowner is willing to donate the trail to the town. Mr. Rogers was asked to put the easement in writing.

Committee Reports:

Open Space: Freddi discussed preparation of a brochure to educate townspeople on the warrant articles. Definitions of terms used in the article would be included. She will prepare a draft for the next meeting. Also discussed was an educational brochure on land protection that would explain that the Commission is working on an open space program, an open space plan has been prepared, tax benefits and general benefits of open space. Freddi will prepare a draft for the next meeting.

Trails: According to the easement agreement with the Kellogg property, a trail can be established on the property. The Kellogg estate has written that they do not want a trail. Bob has sent the correspondence and the easement agreement to Attorney Crocker for legal advice.

Dixie Rhoads has agreed to rename the Furnace Brook Trail to “Geoffer’s Trail”. Bob suggested a wooden sign be placed identifying the trail and a boulder with a plaque also be located dedicating the trail to Geoffrey Rhoads. Bob will inform Jack.

Doug stated that he had approached by Boone Somero regarding the Whirlpool Road trail and better maintenance of the trail. There is a lot of work to be done to the trail and Doug suggested community volunteers to work on it. Freddi added that the Cub Scouts might be willing to help. A day could be picked and organized for the work. Bob will contact Rick Blanchette for his assistance.

Lands: David and Jack did the monitoring of the Currier property. Dan and Bob have yet to do the Rhoads property.

Communications: Bob has set up a blog at <http://Blog.NewIpswichCC.org> for feedback on various subjects.

Old Business: Bob presented the warrant articles to the Board of Selectmen. Ken Lehtonen did not feel it was practical to make that portion of Timbertop Road a scenic road as it is well traveled and may be tarred in the future.

New Business: Bob distributed copies of an easement amendment policy and asked members to read it for discussion at the next meeting.

Doug asked for funds to buy two signs to identify the Souhegan River at Highbridge and on Old Country Road. The Commission approved \$176.00 for the purchase.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary