

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 8, 2006

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Doug Waite, Friederike Kazo, Jack Messe, Dan Daly, Joanne Meshna

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 11, 2006 meeting. Jack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. With regard to the minutes of February 8, 2006, under Water Resources, the spelling of Doug's name should be corrected. Freddi made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Doug seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Liz Freeman from Save New Ipswich was present to apology to the Commission and the Open Space Committee. She stated that their group had put forth for the town warrant two new districts for consideration by the town. It was not meant to undercut what the Commission or the Open Space Committee is doing and they were 100% in favor of what the committee is doing. Rather, her group had felt that the Planning Board was not putting anything forth to protect open space and Save New Ipswich decided they should. Liz stated that they should have to the Commission and Open Space Committee and apologized for not doing so.

Committee Reports:

Water Resources: Jack met with Geoff Gyles and Geoff is almost done his project. They are a few changes to be made to the nature stops and completion of arrest area where the trails meet. Jack reported that he had done a nice job.

Jack has redone the trails map and will bring it into the next meeting. The trail has been cleared from Manley Road. There will be a mailbox at each trailhead. Suggestion was made to put miles of the trails on the map.

The boardwalk at the Nussdorfer Nature Area needs repair and Jack will contact the Boy Scouts to see if they need a project.

Doug will call Steve Riggs about dir piled on his property next to wetlands. An erosion control barrier is necessary to protect the wetlands.

Lands and Easements: The second draft of the Open Space plan has been completed by RKG Association and will be distributed. The Committee will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen after the town meeting. An implementation plan and funding is needed. A warrant article could be submitted next year to purchase conservation easements.

Marilyn Stowe has the graphic for the boundary markers and wants to know what should be written on it. It was agreed on "Town of New Ipswich Conservation Land". The

markers will be diamond shaped with a green background and orange words. Freddi will e-mail the design to everyone and then get a quote on different types of materials. Placing wetland markers when a subdivision is approved as part of the approval process was discussed and Bob will contact Jeff Crocker to see if the town has the right to do so. A covenant in the deed could state that the Conservation Commission has the right to put the wetland markers and monitor them over time.

An easement violation on the Lamarre easement (formerly Hoffman) on River Road was discovered and reported to the Monadnock Conservancy. The owner was conducting a timber harvesting without a timber plan. He was given a cease and desist and cannot resume cutting until a plan from a certified forester has been approved by the Conservancy.

The Commission cannot provide funds to the Hampshire Country School but can assist with letters of support. Dan will find out how the letters should be worded.

USA Properties contacted Bob regarding a conservation easement on the back of four lots on Cedar Ridge Drive. The four easements would not be desirable by the Commission.

The Monadnock Conservancy is working on putting the Bronson Potter land of the Nussdorfer Nature Area into easement.

With regard to the Montagus land, their attorney has not responded back to the Monadnock Conservancy.

Tree Warden: Freddi order trees for the grammar schools. Grades 1-4 will do a poster and writing assignment. She asked to use \$60.00 from the tree warden budget for prizes. Bob made a motion to use \$60.00 from the tree warden budget for prizes. Doug seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Freddi will be contacting the principal at Boynton Middle School to do a big tree contest.

Freddi expressed her concern for the demise of the sugar maples. She suggested buying some saplings and planting them around town. She will contact Jonathan Nute on the prognosis of the tree.

Old Business: The Conservation Commission sent a letter to the Selectmen requesting an environmental impact and financial study be done on the Green Crow property and request for upgrade of West Binney Hill Road. Once that is done, the Commission can make a statement regarding endangered species, etc. The next hearing will be March 28, 2006.

New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) did a timber cutting on the south side of Mountain Pond and left a lot of debris. Si Balch at NEFF told Bob that they will go out and clean it up when the thaw comes. Dan, Doug and Bob will check on the clean-up. If not done well, a complaint will be filed with the state.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Meshna, Secretary