

Minutes for April 12, 2006

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Dan Daly, Harvey Green, Jack Messe, David McTigue, Joanne Meshna

ABSENT: Doug Waitt, Friedericke Kazo

PUBLIC: Bill Watkinson, Al Jenks, Betsy Thoms

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Mr. Watkinson was present to ask that the Commission recommend that the upgrading of West Binney Hill Road from a Class VI to anything else is not in the best interest of the town. Bob explained that the Commission had recommended to the Board of Selectmen that an environmental impact study be done if West Binney Hill Road is to be upgraded. The Commission does not want to make any recommendation until the study is completed. The study will be done by the next meeting scheduled for May 2. The Selectmen will use the study in their decision-making process. The Commission will get copies of the study before the meeting and make a recommendation at the meeting.

Al Jenks expressed his interest on being a member of the Town Forestry Committee yet to be formed. Bob explained that a forester will be hired and that proceeds from timber harvesting on town-owned land will go into the Town Forestry Fund managed by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Jenks also inquired about the warrant article which approved \$50,000 from current use penalties to go to the Conservation Commission. That money will be used to help with the protection of easements. Mr. Jenks also spoke of the Green Crow project on West Binney Hill Road and the possibility of a conservation easement if the road is not approved. Bob responded that if the Board of Selectmen do not approve the upgrading of the road, one of the options for Green Crow would be a conservation easement.

Committee Reports

Trails: Geoff Gyles has completed his project. Bob asked that he come to a Commission meeting and give a report. Jack redid the trail map and is set to have it printed. A wooden box is needed to hold the maps. Three signs are needed which he asked Harvey to complete.

Nothing has been done to repair the bog walk at the Nussdorfer Nature Area. Jack would like to find a boy scout that needs a project and John Little was suggested.

Lands/Easements: RKG Associates made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on the open space plan. The Selectmen were enthused about

the plan and moving it forward. A presentation will next be made to the Planning Board

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

Water Resources: Regarding the pile of sand on a property on Old Wilton Road, the property is owned by Steve Riggs and Doug contacted him. The sand is being stockpiled and will be moved out of there.

Old Business: Members discussed the warrant articles that had passed in March. The Commission will now receive \$50,000 from current use penalties. The final application for designating Tophet Swamp as a prime wetland has been submitted to the state. A Forestry Committee will be formed at the next meeting. Harvey volunteered to serve on it.

New Business: Bob noted that Jeff Littleton from Moosewood Ecological has been hired by the Board of Selectmen to do the environmental impact study on the upgrading of West Binney Hill Road. He will study the impact on natural resources of upgrading only the road.

David Lage is the Selectmen liaison to the Conservation Commission and will attend the next meeting.

Please register PDFcamp on <http://www.verypdf.com/>, thank you.

Coming Events: Sunday April 30: kayak/canoe the Nissitissit River. Departs from Brookline Fire Station at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 21: Hampshire Country School hike/birding; departs from Sharon Arts Center at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary