

DRAFT MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 13, 2011

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Jack Messe, Dixie Rhoads, Doug Waitt, David McTigue, Matt Oliveira, Joanne Meshna

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

Carl and Scott Hagstrom were present to discuss an application they are submitting to DES for two wetland crossings for Judythe Dunn Carson, 242 Ashburnham Road. Ms. Carson plans to subdivide her lot into two. There is currently a house on the lot. She plans to build a house on the new back lot and the driveway to the house will require two wetland crossings. The Commission will visit the site once the application is filed and make their recommendation.

Matt made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2011 meeting. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Trails: Jack will schedule a walk of the Kellogg trail with Ed Rogers.

Lands: The Town now owns the Rice-Tuttle lot.

There has been no answer from Zeke Somero on the signage for conservation lands.

Communications: Matt is working on updating the brochure. Bob suggested the brochure also be designed for smartphone with GPS and members agreed. Matt will forward to members a draft of what he has completed. Bob will contact a printer for prices.

Water Resources: A potential violation of the stream buffer ordinance exists at 136 Goen Road. Yesterday Bob took pictures at the site and presented them to the Selectmen at their meeting last evening. Mr. Ben Cargill, the owner of the property, attended the Selectmen meeting and believes he is not in violation. He also told Bob he had an agricultural exemption and upon researching with the state, Bob could not find such an exemption. The Selectmen agreed to have the town forester, Swift Corwin, inspect the site to determine if there is a violation. Mr. Cargil was told to cease and desist all cutting.

Commission members discussed possible remediation if there is a violation. Bob will contact the state for their recommendations. An intent to cut was not filed for the timber cutting. Landowners are exempt from timber tax if they cut 10 MBF or 20,000 cords of wood for their personal use and the town does not require an intent to cut. Bob spoke with the Chair of the Board of Assessors suggesting that anyone who cuts files an intent to cut.

Tree Warden: The Selectmen asked Bob for his opinion of tapping of town trees. Bob suggested there be a lottery for who taps the trees and that the town receives a percentage of the profit to be put aside for the replacement of the trees. A policy and procedure needs to be in place. Also, the town needs to determine the town trees as opposed to those that are on private land and the Tree Warden should be the one to make that determination.

Old Business: Dixie will contact George May to see if the Commission can get the same deal as they had last year for the stream testing. She will also contact Ken Hickey.

New Business: Dixie made a motion to approve the payment of an invoice from New England Forestry Consultants, Inc. for \$3,950.00 for the blazing and painting of the boundary of the Rice/Tuttle lot. Doug seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bob made a motion to make a \$100.00 donation to the Monadnock Conservancy. Doug seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bob announced a DES drinking water source protection workshop to be held on May 10, 2011. Also, the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on April 20 for a 48 lot subdivision submitted by USA Properties, Inc.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary