

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 14, 2010

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Jack Messe, David McTigue, Becky Doyle, Bill Watkinson, Doug Waitt, Joanne Meshna
ABSENT: Freddi Kazo, Dixie Rhoads

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

Rick Blanchette, Al Jenks and Mike Przybyla addressed the meeting regarding a relocation of the Wapack Trail. Rick explained that a section of the Trail, approximately 2 miles, that was on Wilfried Eggers' property will now all be located on Al's property. The Friends of the Wapack are also hoping to buy a small piece of the Solomonoff property to be used for a parking area for the Trail. The deed for that lot would be held by the state or the town and would outline that the lot could not be built upon. The state Department of Transportation needs to be contacted for a driveway cut and signage. Expenses connected with the purchase of the lot include legal fees, a survey, culvert and gravel. The Commission was in favor of helping fund the project. Bob made a motion to proceed on gathering more information and Bill seconded the motion. Rick will be contacting Mrs. Solomonoff to discuss the purchase with her and if she is agreeable with the project, he will return to the Commission for further planning.

Bill made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2010 meeting. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Open Space: Freddi sent an e-mail that she is not able to serve on the Commission until the fall.

Trails: Attorneys Taft and Tower have been discussing the Kellogg easement and agree that the Commission has a right to put a trail around the perimeter of the property. Even though a horse trail is permitted, members agreed that a hiking trail is what they prefer. Jack and Doug will walk the area and lay out a trail, and then put it on a map for the attorneys.

Tom Brumaghim from Friends of the Wapack has offered to clean up the Nussdorfer Trail. Members agreed to the clean up.

Bob is working with the Monadnock Conservancy to swap the grantee and executory rights on the Kellogg easement.

Water Resources: Doug will be meeting with 100 sixth graders on April 30 at Boynton Middle School with maps of watersheds of Greenville and New Ipswich. The students will be able to identify where they live with relation to streams. On May 5 they will go a two hour field trip to one of the streams.

Bob reported that last week the Board of Selectmen met with members of the Mascenic School Board (Chad Gibson and Chris Lund) and the Facilities Coordinator (Gary Somero) who complained about the Conservation Commission's involvement in the new school project. Bob met with the Selectmen last evening to set the record straight. One of the allegations was that the Chairman had denied them an appointment with the Commission which was untrue. Also alleged was that the Commission had contacted the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers which was not true. Bob further explained that the process the Commission had followed with regard to the dredge and fill application was standard procedure. Because of the magnitude of the project, the Commission had hired Rick Van de Poll to review the application. Rick submitted his report with copies going to the SAU and DES. The outcome was that the school was going to remove one of the ball fields which had been located on vernal pools thus reducing wetland impact.

Bill made a motion to pay Rick Van de Poll for services not to exceed \$1,600. Doug seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business: Bob contacted Attorney Tower regarding the agricultural lease for the Johnson property as it is still not approved and signed. He will get back to Bob.

Tree Warden: Becky reported that Kathy Perra, Parks and Recreation Director, wants to plant two elm trees next to the pool as shade for picnic tables. Becky will meet with her next week.

Becky would like to have an arborist look at the black locust trees at the intersection of Mason and Ashby Roads to determine if they should be cut down or left as is. She was referred to Jonathan Nute.

Becky referred to the Morrill property cut on Ashburnham Road and the recent timber cutting done there. The cut is complete but the area needs clean up. She was advised to contact the state forester.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary

