

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2012

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Doug Waitt, David McTigue, Matthew Oliveira, Joanne Meshna

ABSENT: Dixie Rhoads, Jack Messe

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

The public hearing for cutting of trees on Dixie Rhoads' property on Old Country Road, a scenic road, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. was continued until the September 12, 2012 meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Trails: Bob walked the Wapack Trail and observed the cutting done by Green Crow Corporation on Binney Hill Road. It was a big cut and the trees have been cut right up to the trail leaving no buffer. He suggested an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance requiring a tree buffer to a trail.

Lands: Attorney Hanna will be preparing the purchase and sales agreement for the Williston land. Bob outlined the proposal: \$8,000 cash to Mr. Williston, \$4,000 for clean up, \$7,100 for back taxes, \$2,000 for an environmental assessment, \$1,500 for the survey and \$1,500 for attorney fees for a total of \$24,100. Members were in agreement that the purchase of the lot was a good one because of its location to the Wapack Trail.

The pathway to Dam Site 35 has become a driving road. The lock no longer functions on the gate to the site. Several years ago conservation land was fitted with gates and locks keyed alike. Bob asked that if the key does not fit the Dam Site 35 lock that he be permitted to buy a new lock, key and chain. Doug made a motion that Bob is authorized to purchase a lock, key and chain for Dam Site 35 in the amount of \$100-\$125. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Communications:

Doug, Bob and Matt walked the Geoffer's Trail and plotted it with the GPS. They will walk it again and do some clean up. This will be used for the updated brochure that Matt is working on.

New Business:

Becky is planning the cutting of some trees along scenic roads. As part of the Highway Department's budget, there is \$10,000 allotted for tree removal. Members would like to see those trees replaced when they are cut down.

David inquired about the trees that are marked around Central Cemetery and also in the Cemetery. Bob will contact George Lawrence to find out what is planned.

Members discussed the establishment of a scenic road policy. The person that is planning the cutting of trees on a scenic road should first flag those trees. The Commission will then send out a letter to people on the road citing the RSA for scenic roads, noting that the trees have been flagged and announcing the public hearing. The Commission will pay for the newspaper notices. Bob will draft the letter.

Doug suggested that the Commission hire people to do trail maintenance and asked that it be discussed at the next meeting. Things to consider were discussed such as the use of conservation funds, liability to the town, management of those hired, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary