

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Dan Daly, Doug Waite, Jack Messe, Harvey Green, David McTigue, David Lage, Joanne Meshna

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. at the Town Office.

Swift Corwin, Town Forester, was present to discuss forestry on town properties and the Forestry Committee. Mr. Corwin reviewed each parcel of land: Williams property – recommended no cutting but maintenance of trails; Nussdorfer Nature Area – cut 16 years ago; has oak and fir and some hemlock; red oak should not be cut now because of low mill prices; Johnson property – nothing to cut for 10-12 years; landlocked lot on Ashby/Ashburnham Road – best time to log is when abutters are logging; heavy red oak; recommend nothing be done there at this time; Emerson Hill Road lot – should focus on this lot; has spruce, red oak and fir. Mr. Corwin suggested planning for a winter cut. A RFP for the cutting would be advertised. Members on the Forestry Committee include Bob, Harvey, Al Jenks and Freddi and it was suggested that they walk the properties with Mr. Corwin.

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2006 meeting. Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Trails: Jack reported that the bog walk at the Nussdorfer Nature Area needed major repairs and a couple of Boy Scouts to assist with the repairs. Nothing will be done until the spring of 2007.

The trail on the Johnson property is poorly marked. Bob and Jack will walk the trail and flag it. The Furnace Brook Trail needs remarking and new markers and will be done once the new trail markers are in.

Lands: Kellogg easement – The heirs of the Kellogg property are interested in doing a subdivision that would involve removing land in the easement. The easement agreement states that there will be no subdivisions of the land and Bob noted that Stan spent a lot of time determining what land to protect. Attorney Robert Taft, representing the Kellogg heirs, has scheduled a meeting with the Planning Board to discuss the subdivision. Members agreed that the easement agreement should be honored. Dan made a motion to express in writing to Attorney Crocker that the Conservation Commission is against the subdivision and that the easement is to be protected. Doug seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Water Resources: Doug, Bob and an inspector from DES viewed the Village Mobil Station and the Emerson Hill Road site where wetlands violations are occurring. Doug expressed his frustration and dissatisfaction with the DES inspector and lack of resolve

and preparedness. The inspector stated any action would take six weeks. Bob will contact the divisional supervisor. Bob and Doug will attend the next hearing with William Rzepa and the Planning Board to inform the Board of the wetlands complaint.

Bob reported on a wetlands permit from San-Ken Homes for lot 6/8A, Turnpike Road. Several years ago during a subdivision of the property the lot had been designated as unbuildable. In July San-Ken appeared before the Planning Board to have the lot changed to buildable. It was determined that access from Turnpike Road would violate the side setbacks and wetlands setbacks. The property has frontage on Chapman Road and the Planning Board approved the lot as buildable provided access was from Chapman Road. Bob and Doug visited the site when San-Ken filed a Permit by Notification to impact 973 square feet of wetlands in order to access the lot off Turnpike Road. David Lage informed Bob of the Planning Board's decision and Bob did not sign the permit. Upon further review of the Chapman Road access, Bob and Doug determined that it was impractical to access the lot from there and that the impact to wetlands would be greater. Bob will write a letter to the Planning Board recommending they rescind their original decision and allow access from Turnpike Road.

Bob, Liz Freeman and Mary Jane Grasty are serving on the New Ipswich division of the Hampshire Country School Capital Campaign. The Rindge Conservation Commission is donating \$50,000 to the project. Bob recommended that the \$41,000 being held by the Monadnock Conservancy from Homes by Craven to be used on a project in New Ipswich be donated along with \$9,000 from the Conservation Commission to the campaign.

Bob suggested a warrant article for 2007 to designate Timbertop Road from the intersection of Timbertop and Huse Roads to the Rindge town line as a scenic road.

New Business:

At 7:00 p.m. members of the Commission visited the site of the proposed new soccer field at the Town Field. Bob will contact Jeff Littleton to have him view the site and make a recommendation. Wetlands are involved. Bob suggested the Selectmen begin filling out the DES permit. The Planning Board needs to be informed 60 days prior to construction and Bob suggested the Selectmen request a waiver from the Planning Board.

Bob explained that the Bronson Potter and town property that makes up part of the Nussdorfer Nature Area is in the process of being placed in protection by the Monadnock Conservancy. In order to do so a survey of the property is required. Ed Goodrich submitted a proposal to do so for \$1,900. Harvey made a motion to approve the proposal. Doug seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Harvey purchased the book "Deforesting the Earth" to be donated to the New Ipswich Library from the Conservation Commission.

The town web site is now up and running.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary