

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2007

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Doug Waitt, Harvey Green, Jack Messe, David Lage (L), Bill Watkinson, David McTigue (M), Freddi Kazo, Joanne Meshna

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

At 7:55 p.m. Rick Muehkle from the Nashua River Watershed Association joined the meeting to explain the Conservation Number Plate Program which is a grant program for conservation projects. Approximately \$200,000 is available. Projects may be up to two years in duration. No matching funds are required. Grants will be made available for planning and carrying out projects that enhance New Hampshire's environment by promoting the sustainability of the state's public and private land, air and water resources to prevent their pollution or degradation such as projects that preserve water quality or wildlife habitat, projects that prevent soil erosion or flooding, watershed protection projects, improvements to property acquired for conservation purposes, and land management planning to accomplish or that leads to an identified conservation project or outcome. Members discussed possible projects such as designation of wetlands to prime wetlands and restoration of streams. Mr. Muehkle suggested reviewing the Wildlife Action Plan for possible projects. Bob asked Mr. Muehkle to check on the possibility a project to of designate prime wetlands with the understanding that if the town does not pass it that the grant program does not have to fund it.

Committee Reports:

Trails: The Monadnock Conservancy is considering taking over the Rhoads' easement currently held by the town and will vote to do so in November or December. Doug made a motion to transfer the grantee easement to the Monadnock Conservancy. Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jack and a Scout will walk the Rhoads easement on Monday. Bob will clarify with the Monadnock Conservancy if the Conservation Commission will be maintaining the trail. The easement will also be monitored on Monday by Jack, David M. and Bob.

Jack noted that one of the Scouts is preparing a scope of work to be done at the Nussdorfer Nature Area and will present it to the Commission when completed.

John Allen, the caretaker for the Kellogg property, sent a letter to Bob regarding people walking on the conservation land during hunting season. He questioned how to warn people that a hunter may be on the property. Bob noted that the easement states that the land can be posted against hunting. Once the Commission places a trail on the easement, a sign will be posted that hunters may be on the trail.

Open Space: Freddi reported that the engineer continues to work on the development of a piece of land according to cluster and subdivision regulations. Once that is completed,

the committee will be preparing amendments to the regulations; this may not happen this year. Freddi also noted that she would like to get more members on the Open Space Committee and do educational outreach.

Communications: Freddi stated she would like to do a town-wide mailing to inform the public of ongoing projects, accomplishments, etc. of the Commission in an attempt to get people interested in the Commission. She proposes doing it 2-3 times a year. She volunteered to spearhead the project and will do a mock up to be discussed at the next meeting.

Water Resources: With regard to the Traffie subdivision and wetland delineation, Rick Van de Poll visited the site on September 21 along with Mr. Traffie's wetland scientist. Bob will request a written report from Rick.

David L. explained the status of Oak Hill Road. Oak Hill Road is a private road and several years ago during a subdivision application procedure, the Planning Board placed a public access easement on it. Landowners on Oak Hill Road asked for that to be removed because of liability issues. The Planning Board has rescinded the public access easement. Town counsel advised that the Conservation Commission needs to approve the rescinding of the public access. Harvey made a motion to so approve. Doug seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Bob will write a letter to the Selectmen informing them of the vote.

Tree Warden: Chief Chamberlain approved the "Request to Cut Town Trees" form.

Old Business: Doug and Harvey will monitor the Kellogg property. The Williams' property will be monitored in three weeks by the Monadnock Conservancy. Jack and David M. will monitor the Currier property. Bill offered his assistance with the monitoring.

New Business: The Nominating Committee was not ready with their report. They will report at the next meeting.

Coming Events: The New Ipswich Conservation Commission, Temple Conservation Commission and Northeast Wilderness Trust are co-sponsoring a hike of the Hampshire School property on Saturday, October 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Sharon Arts Center. Should be completed by 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary