

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2009

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

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

Bob made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting. Dixie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Lands: Doug will monitor the Kellogg property once the timber cutting is complete. Also at that time, Bob and Jack will lay out the trail.

The town now owns the Rice property on Tophet Swamp. It was purchased for \$15,000. Bob suggested a sign be erected on the property stating that it was purchased by the Conservation Commission. He will be contacting the Monadnock Conservancy to have them hold the primary easement. Dixie made a motion to have a survey done of the lot. Jack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bob reported that someone had contacted him regarding Dam Site #14. A sign that allowed "bird hunting only" had been taken down and replaced with "no firearms". Bob removed that sign and informed the person that contacted him that there was hunting allowed.

A final offer of \$90,000 was made today on the Rice property off Upper Pratt Pond Road. NEFF would pay for half and the Commission the other half. NEFF would hold the deed. Monadnock Conservancy would hold the primary easement and the Commission the secondary easement.

Swift Corwin forwarded draft RFPs to Bob for the cutting back of trees and stumping on the Johnson property. Swift estimates the cost of cutting the trees up to the walls to cost approximately \$1-2,000 and the excavation approximately \$20,000. Joanne will send RFPs to the newspaper to be published next week with the date due November 9.

Dixie and Bob monitored Geoffer's Trail. There is a lot of ice storm damage with several trees down.

Bob received a letter from a forester doing cutting at the Kellogg property. He is seeking a variance so he can cut more than the 50% of the basal area.

Bob referred to RSA 227-J:9 and the Shoreland Protection Act and recommended members be familiar with these laws.

Water Resources: Dixie distributed the results from the water testing. Dixie, Dave and Bob will meet to narrow down the sites where more testing needs to be done. Dixie asked that the volunteers be thanked. She will send the names to Joanne and a letter will be drafted for Dixie's and Bob's signature.

Bob will be going with the Selectmen on October 23 to an interview with the DES regarding a \$100,000 grant. The grant is a 60/40 match with the state supplying \$60,000 and the town \$40,000. There is money coming to the town for a fine that a contractor had to pay in the amount of \$15,000 so the town would need to raise \$25,000.

Doug reported that the Rhoads Family Environmental Fund has conditionally approved a grant for \$2,000 to be used for water body mapping and naming. By November 30, Doug needs to supply a project plan or syllabus that describes the project timeline, proposed activities and outcomes, a letter of commitment from a school representative, a letter from the Project Director and a budget. Doug will contact Boynton Middle School to get the students involved.

Old Business: Bob met with the Finance Advisory Committee on October 5 with the 2010 budget. The bottom line remains the same as last year.

New Business: Bob suggested making Binney Hill Road from the Sawtelle's property to the gravel portion in New Ipswich a Class A Trail. He will draft a warrant article for the November meeting and submit it to town counsel for review.

Bob announced that the GIS system for maps will be added to the town's and Commission's websites.

Joanne will send Matt LeClair a letter asking him to attend the November meeting regarding the lease on the Johnson property.

The Nominating Committee made the following recommendation: Appoint as members for three year terms – Dixie Rhoads, Bob Boynton and Freddi Kazo. Jack made a motion to accept the recommendation. Bill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee made the following recommendation: Appoint Bob Boynton as Chairman, David McTigue as Vice Chairman and Joanne Meshna as Secretary. Jack made a motion to accept the slate of officers. Dixie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Meshna, Secretary

