

Cornish Conservation Commission

Minutes of Wednesday, November 29, 2006, Unapproved

Present: Loel Callahan, Bill Gallagher, John Hammond, Mary Beth Heiskell, Mariet Jaarsma, Betty Miller, Rickey Poor, Don Snowden, Gabe Zoerheide, and guests Arthur Brown, Byron Champlin, Dan Flynn, David L'Heureux, Ruth L'Heureux, Mildred Richardson, Jim Rogers, Joanne Rogers

Minutes: Gabe moved to approve the minutes of October 25 as written, Mary Beth seconded, and the motion passed. Gabe moved to remove all bulleted items from the minutes of November 8 and to put in a more general description. No one seconded the motion. Discussion about the minutes followed. Gabe felt that a discussion topic is something raised by the Commission, not outsiders, so suggested the word "topics" just before the list be replaced with "concerns." Betty also suggested a few changes (correct the spelling of "Woodhull," change the word "power" to "authority," and rephrasing of the final bullet). Loel moved to approve the minutes of November 8 as corrected, Bill seconded, and the motion passed.

Discussion with Guests: Road Agent Dan Flynn and several Jackson Road residents participated in a discussion regarding the Jackson Road wetlands. DES has sent three letters: a letter of deficiency to both Dan Flynn and John Furgat as well as a letter to Dan answering his questions about permitting. A restoration plan is to be submitted to DES by December 15 and the Selectboard has retained the services of Jim McClammer to develop the plan to restore the wetlands. Several "old," unresolved issues were brought up as well as a few new ones, such as (1) concern that the restoration plan include the whole area (particularly areas impacted downstream) and not just the dredged area, (2) a request for replacement of a tree which had been on Mildred Richardson's property, (3) the idea of community gardens created on a portion of the wetlands, (4) placing a formal conservation easement on the wetlands. The Commission again urged neighbors to express their concerns to the Selectboard.

Conservation Easements: SPNHF is nearing completion of the Bulkeley easement. The Commission will thank Mrs. Bulkeley for this wonderful addition to the conserved lands in the area. This may also provide impetus for other landowners to move forward on their easements.

Budget: Rickey and Don will contact Augie Dworak regarding payment for the totem pole. Gabe moved to pay dues and membership fees to the Timberland Owners Association, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests, the Upper Valley Land Trust, and the Connecticut River Watershed Council and transfer the remaining balance into the Conservation Fund. Loel seconded and the motion passed. Bill moved that membership in the Audubon Society be added, Mary Beth seconded, and the vote was affirmative. Mary Beth will gather necessary information and submit to Marge ASAP for payment.

Other DES/Wetlands Issues:

- Gabe and Don described the installation of a culvert at White Swan Farm. They will send a letter to involved parties expressing concern and informing them of the permitting process.
- At Selectboard request, Don visited George Aldrich. There appears to be no dumping of material in the stream; George agreed that additional material would be placed no closer to the stream.
- Cliff Bennett's permit application for repair of a bridge was approved.
- Creation of a beaver committee was discussed. This group would work with the Road Agent as well as install and monitor baffles and similar devices. Gabe made a motion to support the idea of having a fund set up to for beaver control and to have a committee oversee the fund in

cooperation with the Highway Department. Rickey seconded the motion and the vote passed.

Membership: There is agreement that the Conservation Commission needs additional members. Two names for alternates will be suggested to the Selectmen.

Conservation Plan: Bill presented his revision to the agriculture section; there was discussion whether management practices should be included or not.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Miller