

## Conservation Commission Minutes for February 25, 2015

Present: Jim Barker, Chairman, Rickey Poor, Buz Lord, Dale Rook, Steven Wilkie, Bob Bulkeley, Bill Gallagher, John Berry, Paul Dunne, John Hammond

Public attendees – Tim Schad, Peg Merrens for the UVLT

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Jim Barker, Chair

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Steve Wilkie. The minutes were approved as presented.

Jim turned the meeting over to Peg Merrens so she and Tim could present information about the Fox property (Hi-Hope Farm) that is on East Rd between Mace Rd and Clark Camp Rd. Tim and Lynn Schad have purchased the 64 acre property that includes the old home and a barn (historic?) and they want to place a conservation easement on the property. The property is to be subdivided into three parcels each with its own easement. There will be an 8.23 acres lot (no houses), an 11.53 acre piece (10 in acres conservation plus a 1.53 acre home site) and a 44 acre parcel (39.91 acres in conservation and a 4.71 acre home site). After easements are complete the three properties will be sold.

Tim and Lynn plan on covering the endowment fees on the three parcels. Peg is requesting that the Conservation Commission cover the \$10,000 Upper Valley Land Trust fees that include legal work, mapping and baseline reports for the three pieces. A single parcel usually has fees close to \$4000. The UVLT is hoping that because of common boundaries etc these will be less expensive to set up and have therefore requested \$10,000 rather than \$12,000 .

Peg reviewed some key features of the properties including scenic views, agriculture lands, forestry lands, wetlands etc as well as the restrictions that will be placed on the properties.

Frank Parks, Paul Dunne and Rickey Poor have agreed to review the property for the Commission. A date, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00, was set to walk properties. Others are welcome to join the group. They will meet at the Fox farm.

The Putman Farm easement was reviewed. Three grants have been approved for the protection of this farm. The grants include LCHIP (New Hampshire's "Land and Community Heritage Investment Program"), USDA farm bill grant for .50% of the development rights and a "1772 Foundation" grant to preserve critical farmland in the Boston and New York food-sheds. It is expected that these three grants will cover the costs associated with protecting the Putman Farm.

Conservation Commission membership – Dale Rook and John Berry have completed their three year terms. Both are willing to be reappointed.

Steve Wilkie is planning to attend a meeting of the Ascutney subcommittee of the Connecticut River Watershed Council to see if he is interested in serving on this committee.

CREA – Jim reported that there have been no CREA meetings this year although the

selectmen held a hearing on the hunting policy last year. A copy of the CREA Management Plan is posted on the Town's website. At one point it included a new hunting policy (following the hearing) but that policy has been removed and the posted plan is silent on the issue of hunting.

There is an article, by petition, in this year's Town Warrant that would prohibit hunting and trapping by the general public.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Dale Rook and seconded by Bob Bulkeley. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. The education and the water resource committees met in work sessions.

Respectively submitted,  
Rickey Poor