

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 16, 2005**

A meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, NH. Present were: Chair, Paul Pinkham; Carol Lyman, David Weathers, and Alternate, Connie Briggs. Also in attendance were Peter Benson, and Carroll County Independent reporter, Laurie Leonard.

The Chair appointed Mr. Briggs as a full voting member.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Mr. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Weathers and carried by unanimous vote, that the Minutes of the Feb. 9th meeting be accepted as written.

Public Comment: None.

Wetland Applications:

Saco River Bank Project - Mr. Weathers reported the Town received a response on the Steven Allen permit for the Saco River Campground bank stabilization project for the stabilization of the eroded area by cutting the banking to a 3-1 slope. The plan is to seed the slope and plant shrubs recommended by a nursery at the top of the bank. For access there will be a trail to the beach which is a flat grade. A sign will be posted so that people will know to access the river they must go a different way and not over the bank. Mr. Weathers said there is no mention of any keying it in either on the upstream end or the downstream end. He said he would be surprised if the State granted a permit to do this; more information has been requested – the application does not give quantities of the seeding materials or mulch material, or dates. Mr. Weathers will respond expressing his concerns.

Clean Up at First Bridge - Application has been made for the State's clean up project at First Bridge on the Saco where debris has lodged. They will clean that out maintaining that bridge abutment. They are planning on impacting 4,045 sq. ft. (total area is just over 9,000 sf.) to remove everything within that site to keep it as free flowing as they can. Proposal is to reshape the eastern bank of the river to prevent floating debris from accumulating at the bridge. They propose starting June 2005, with a completion date of Oct. 2007. Mr. Weathers had some question as to the duration of the project as he does not know why it would take that long.

School Site Application - Formal application for Phase II of the school site has been made. The actual area to be filled is 17,000 sf. There will be two culverts – one 48" and one 36". Mr. Weathers commented that impact area has increased from what they were talking about originally; in general it is pretty much what they had first proposed, but a little bit of difference in square footage. Mr. Weathers said he still has reservations as

regards the drain, but knows that Barry Keith has tried to have it impact the wetland the least he can.

Mr. Weathers said it sounded as though this was an arrangement with DES, that they would grant the first permit, but this was included in the alteration of terrain – two different permits - but the State knew another application would be coming for Phase II. The total application was inclusive for Phase I & Phase II. They have granted the permit for Phase I. It was noted that the mitigation Conservation Easement has now gone to Tin Mountain Conservation, CCC is now out of the loop. Mr. Weathers said CCC can comment if we want, but are not required to. He said he does not see that there is much that will go wrong with it considering their seeding plan and erosion control plan. He feels they have a good plan on the table; however, he does feel that the road drainage will cause some maintenance problems. It was agreed a letter would be submitted stating that the CCC did review it twice and looks favorably on the project.

Mr. Weathers reported that Sandra Steele in Eaton has received a permit to build on a single family lot on White Oak Drive.

REPORTS:

Peter Benson - Mr. Benson said he is in the process of finalizing his budget for next year. It appears that they will get some part-time seasonal help.

It was noted that they were planning to redo the maps this year, but that has changed because of the expense, and they will wait until next year because of various changes that will be made. In the meantime they will print about 4,000 maps this year.

Mr. Benson stated they want to redo all the wooden signs on all the properties (there are 28). They have purchased the templates and AMC will do them for \$30 per sign – routing and painting. It was explained that we lose them through people taking them as souvenirs and due to the weather. The Pudding Pond sign disappears periodically, as well as the one on top of Peaked Mt. They have budgeted about \$1200 for this.

Mr. Benson reported he removed a few blow-downs last week.

Mr. Pinkham noted we have the billing for this current year; we need a work agreement which we did not have last year – the CCC owes Mr. Benson some money for last year's work. Mr. Benson said he will detail the work done two years ago and will send a bill to Mr. Pinkham. Mr. Weathers questioned how we would make up the difference, noting the Budget Committee cut the CCC budget because we did not spend our appropriation this year. Mr. Pinkham made the argument that back in 2001 when there was a surplus in the CCC bank account and the previous Town Manager started whittling away at that, they changed the way the CCC was funded. At that time determination was made that we would draw down on that account and reimburse the town. There is approximately \$7,000 left in that savings account. His ambition is to have the Board of Selectmen acknowledge what took place in 2001 and stop that practice. He noted if that were the

case, we would end up with a budget of \$16,000 plus what remained in the Conservation account. It was noted the intent of the original RSA was to allow funds to accumulate in order to be able to purchase more conservation lands. Mr. Weathers suggested after the elections the CCC come before the Selectmen to discuss this.

Progress Report on the Gas Station Property: Mr. Briggs reported a press release will be forthcoming from the group interested in purchasing the gas station property, advising those who wish may make a tax deductible contribution through the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust, a 501©3 organization.

Floodplain Lands: Mr. Pinkham reported he and Mr. Weathers went to the Town Office to research the amount of acreage in the floodplain that is being mowed. Mr. Benson reported that next month we can expect some news regarding the Farm land Protection Program that Upper Saco Valley Land Protection is applying for which affects a major chunk of farm land in Conway. They will be submitting an application on April 5th. It will require a 25% match with the application.

Kearsarge Brook Crossing: Mr. Pinkham reported he had sent Messrs. Weathers and Sires information from Fish & Game who is seeking help from CCC with the sewer crossing across Kearsarge Book. John Magee, Fish Habitat Biologist, believes the Kearsarge Brook is a trout habitat. Mr. Magee refers to it as an informal crossing and he would like to eliminate the casual use of that as a stream crossing. Mr. Weathers stated machinery using any petroleum products is not supposed to cross water, so if someone is using that as a crossing, that is against the law. He commented it would be easy to put a bridge over it.

Mr. Briggs noted that the ski touring association and Cranmore have dropped a couple of telephone poles with plankings across them so they can get grooming equipment across. It was pointed out that Mr. Magee's concern is the integrity of the brook, and Mr. Pinkham suggested he may need to let Mr. Magee know that we believe it is the ski touring association that uses that crossing.

Schiavi Property: Ms. Lyman noted the DOT was supposed to come up and check out the Schiavi property. That has now been scheduled for April 4th at 11:30 a.m.

At 7:25 p.m. Motion was made by Mr. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Weathers and carried, that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary