

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
February 8, 2006**

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; Phil Haynes, Carol Lyman, David Weathers, and Alternate Linda Kearney.

The Chair appointed Ms. Kearney as a full voting member.

**Approval of Minutes (1/12/06):** Notation was made by Mr. Haynes that a “cross out” on Pg. 3 should have been deleted. **Motion was made by Mr. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that the Minutes of the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved as corrected. Carried by unanimous vote.**

**Public Comment:** None.

**Reports:**

Mr. Pinkham reported that Don Johnson could not be present, but called to say he has reviewed the Federal WHIP Program to see if grant money is available for the wildlife habitat improvement work planned for Common Lands off Hurricane Mt. Rd.; however, feels it is unlikely in view of other applicants and the magnitude of those projects holding priority. It was Mr. Weathers’ understanding that there is going to be more money available this year than in other years, and he commented that if Mr. Johnson does not get the answer he wants, he should go directly to the State Office. It was noted that once the money has been approved, the implementation is over a 5-year period and the money stays earmarked for the CCC. Mr. Weathers offered his help in following up.

**Appointments:** Mr. Pinkham reported the terms for Messrs. Haynes and Briggs and Ms. Kearney will expire this year. All have expressed a desire to remain on the Commission, however, it is town policy to advertise the vacancies.

**Whitaker Signs:** Mr. Pinkham reported CCC has been billed \$500 for the signs, but we have not as yet seen any of them. Mr. Haynes offered to follow up on this.

**Whitaker Trail, Etc.:** Mr. Pinkham noted that Mr. Adair could not be present, but reports that he intends to submit a request to add to the new Sticks & Stones Loop Trail and will provide a map at the next meeting. Mr. Pinkham discussed with Mr. Adair the Whitaker Trail work, noting that we have still not defined what we want to do. Mr. Pinkham suggested establishing a due date for a plan, price it out, and do as much as we can to fit within the budget (it is included in the \$4500). It was suggested that the individuals on the Whitaker Trail Committee be urged to provide something in writing by March.

**Report on Meeting with Budget Committee:** Mr. Weathers passed along a compliment to Mr. Pinkham on his presentation to the Budget Committee, stating it was very well received and informative and very much appreciated. Mr. Pinkham commended Ms. Lyman for her help at that meeting. Mr. Pinkham discussed with the Budget Committee their views as to reduction of a budget on the grounds of a history of under-spending, noting that if an organization is consistently under-performing its budget requirements, they need to understand why it is that that money was not spent – there are symptoms that follow the practice. It was Mr. Haynes' contention that the Budget Committee is so concerned about the tax rate that they do not understand if you do not spend it you get it back, they are concerned that it will be spent unnecessarily. Ms. Lyman pointed out that especially with the Conservation Commission, some of the things cannot be performed as scheduled.

**Schiavi Property Report:** Mr. Pinkham noted there is nothing new to report except that Don Lyford says the process is continuing. Mr. Pinkham will call him in the near future.

**Selectmen's Report:** Mr. Weathers reported that DES has granted a permit for Saco River Woods for a culvert and new driveway, reducing the impact from 13,526 sf to 6,801 sf.

It was reported that application was received on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> for a minimum impact application for Asterview, LLC, a 4-lot subdivision on Davis Hill requiring two culverts.

**Schouler Park:** *[The following discussion relative to parks and recreation took place.]* Mr. Haynes reported that Mary Carey of Mt. Washington Valley Preservation Assn. contacted him asking for a list of things for Schouler Park that the CCC would recommend. He told her water, replacing some trees in the park, getting the electricity arranged so all comes into one location, and soil. Mr. Weathers stated the Selectmen turned it down for the lighting, but they could take it out of the recently approved million dollar grant for North Conway Village Association.

**Accounting:** It was noted that presently any timber harvest money goes into the Conservation Land Acquisition Account, and according to the RSAs it should go into our accounts to offset the cost of doing business. Ms. Lyman feels we should revert back to that practice, keeping appropriated monies to acquire conservation lands. Appeal has been made to the Board of Selectmen with no response. Mr. Haynes questioned whether there is a possibility of taking a percentage of the money from a timber harvest and making it available for paying bills, etc. Mr. Weathers stated if a motion is put forth at the deliberative portion of town meeting, by a vote of the people the town can access that money. Mr. Pinkham reported since 1978 CCC has generated \$181,439, not including the expenses, expenses over that same period of time were \$130,000. All CCC lands are self-supporting. Mr. Haynes said his philosophy would be that we not use any money for our expenses as long as we can have the town support us in our budget, because that money is to be used to conserve land. Mr. Weathers said we raise and appropriate operating money at town meeting.

Mr. Pinkham suggested that we need to develop criteria for considering conservation land acquisition or conservation easements. Mr. Weathers suggested inviting someone to one of our meetings to explain conservation easements and how the program operates.

Mr. Haynes felt that the Schiavi property is a piece of land that would benefit the whole town and it would behoove us to make contact with organizations who donate money for the good of the town. Mr. Pinkham pointed out we can do more protecting for a lot less money through conservation easements, but we have to establish some criteria that we would use in evaluating a piece of land that we recognize as desirable to get a conservation easement. **Motion was made by Mr. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Lyman, that it be a 2006 objective to establish a conservation land acquisition or program plan for conservation easements, and that that be the way we spend our money. Carried by unanimous vote.** It was suggested that Upper Saco Valley Trust be asked to act as advisory.

**Next Meeting Date:** Ms. Lyman pointed out the next meeting is scheduled on the same night as the town budget deliberative meeting. **Motion was made by Ms. Lyman, seconded by Mr. Weathers and carried, that the March Conservation Commission meeting be cancelled.** The next regular meeting will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Motion was made by Mr. Haynes, seconded by Ms. Lyman and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Currier, Recording Secretary