

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 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: Paul Pinkham, David Weathers, Dan Lucy, Chuck Broomhall, Carol Lyman, and Alternate, Linda Kearney. Rob Adair joined the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Also in attendance was Jeff Lougee.

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

Approval of Minutes (10/11/06): Motion by Mr. Weathers, second by Ms. Kearney, that the Minutes of the Oct. 11th meeting be approved as written. Carried by unanimous vote.

Reports: Mr. Pinkham noted that Mr. Johnson could not be present; however, reported by phone that he is currently working in Whitaker Woods with an excavator, digging into the borrow pit. The logger is scheduled to be in there this week to start the harvest. A press release describing the work was sent to the Daily Sun and the MountainEar.

Mr. Johnson expects to get all the trail work done at the same time, and will use the Oak Street entrance. He has to take out a big pine at the intersection of Oak Street in order for the logger to get the trailer turned around. He has suggested that the area where the landing is when coming in from Oak Street could be used as parking, and that coming down the power lines could be used as a handicap access trail. The consensus was that it would be nice to have a handicap access trail and it was agreed that the USFS would be contacted to find out what the standards are for that. Upon question of other trail work planned, Mr. Pinkham stated Mr. Johnson will start on the list prepared by Rob Adair. Mr. Broomhall said he assumes he will come back and take out stumps and rocks.

Mr. Johnson has resubmitted Whitaker Woods as the Tree Farm of the Year award recipient. Mr. Pinkham noted that upon certification, we are accorded a one year free membership; however, we are not a card carrying, dues paying, member and questioned whether members felt we should be if we are going to take advantage of their offering. There is a fee schedule based on acreage. Mr. Johnson will check to see if there is town membership of some sort. Mr. Weathers felt the average recipient of that award is not a member, that it is usually an individual landowner. Mr. Pinkham asked members to consider it.

Nature Conservancy Report: Jeff Lougee reported that at the end of next week they will go up and do the repairs to the parking lot on Hurricane Mt. Road. They are working with the State. CCC funds will be used to support the TNC work. The cost of the gravel will be about \$1700 and the State is “ponying up” with the use of the equipment.

Mr. Lougee stated they will still try to do the contract with AMC to get the trail signs made before the year is out. Mr. Pinkham said there is a mechanism which allows us to

retain that money short term if there is something forthcoming. He reminded Mr. Lougee that we need to be looking at the 2007 work to be scheduled.

Treasurer's Report: None.

Selectmen's Report: Mr. Pinkham stated Mr. Sires informs him that Mr. Weiss at NHDOT is ready to make the purchase on the Schiavi property. Mr. Pinkham expressed the need to review the content of the deed as it does not make any reference to the Commission as being any part of it; he did raise that issue, but to no avail. He said Mr. Sires has asked for a description of the survey work which described the boundaries. Mr. Pinkham received an e-mail agreeing to language for the sign. Mr. Weiss plans on the purchase being completed before the end of the year. Mr. Weathers said he does not feel we will take ownership until they finish the southern leg of the bypass. Mr. Pinkham said suggestion has been that those two pieces would be turned over to the town anyway. Mr. Weathers said as of the last CDRC meeting they will do an update to the information they have and will justify that we need it; however, Don Lyford does not feel the update is needed. Ms. Lyman noted regarding the Schiavi property, because we put money into it we had thought we would have some say about it, now there is question as to whether we would and she questions whether that should be revisited. Mr. Weathers stated, technically, it is being purchased by the State. He will check with the Town Manager.

2006-2007 Budget: Mr. Pinkham has reviewed this with Mr. Sires offering a figure of approximately \$30,000. Mr. Sires came back with suggestions for revision asking the Commission to forego the \$3,000 for surveying the property line of Whitaker Woods. Mr. Pinkham has investigated the Redstone property and the use of the dollars and the fund that came from, and finds that if we want to use it for a management plan, that is an allowable use. Mr. Sires is asking that the \$4,000 for a management plan for Redstone be removed and that we plan on taking it out of the Conservation Acquisition Account.

Mr. Broomhall asked for justification for not doing the Whitaker Woods boundary lines. Mr. Pinkham said the answer he got was "saving \$3,000." Mr. Broomhall pointed out that there is one area up there that is probably where the bypass will come through that is not marked clearly – referring to the piece along the Whitaker Homesite. He said it is clearly delineated, but not marked on the ground.

Shedd Woods reclamation project by Don Johnson - \$7,000+ - Mr. Pinkham said he feels the right thing to do is to put those funds aside and reconsider it at another time, that we pull out of that \$7,000 the expense attributed to the granite posts and railings, and do \$4,000 worth of reclamation (the trees). Mr. Weathers said he too had a problem with that, does not see the need of it, and he feels it is strictly cosmetic. He commented if vehicles still continue to go around that curbing we could put something in there; he does not see the necessity of a granite post fence and feels it would be a hard sell. Ms. Lyman agreed.

Mr. Adair said he agreed also that that is not money well spent. Also that Mr. Johnson's proposal calls for 62 trees in the opening, which he feels is a lot. Mr. Pinkham said Mr.

Johnson based that on standard for the density of trees on a site of that type. He suggested that decision should be left in the hands of professional tree people rather than arbitrarily cutting it in half.

Mr. Pinkham said those revisions stated above would bring us to a budget that is only about \$300 more than last year.

Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Kearney, that the Conservation Commission submit a total budget of \$20,354 for 2007. Carried by unanimous vote.

Wetlands Permit Update: No new applications. Mr. Weathers reported inquiry was made on a property at Bryant Drive. The State got back to him on new trail relocation at Mt. Cranmore Condominium Assn. Kurt Burke has submitted an application for a new culvert at his driveway on Intervale Crossroad. As regards the Giese application on Pequawket Drive, the additional information required has been submitted.

Other Business: Conservation Land and Open Spaces Rules & Regulations – Items still remaining for final draft: Hunting and mineral collecting or mining. Mr. Lucy stated he is confused as to whether a person can hunt on conservation land. Mr. Weathers feels it will depend on what the deed says. As regards the mining, Mr. Adair felt it should say “no commercial mineral excavation, no blasting.” Mr. Pinkham noted with the big pits that have been dug we have a responsibility to warn people of the hazard. Mr. Adair will check with the USFS to see what their regulations are.

Whitaker Trail Plan – Mr. Adair had met with some of the Nordic Ski Club people, have not changed anything at this point. Mr. Broomhall said their feeling is, unless it can be all done they do not want to do any of it; his feeling is we could do bits and pieces at a time, and have a plan in place so that it can get done. He noted the trails here now for racing and skiing are not good overall, not laid out for competition. Mr. Broomhall felt that it could be changed if we want to do it.

It was noted that Mr. Johnson had a concern with one section toward the north at the end of the Lucy Traverse; going through the middle of that with a trail there is a wet area at the bottom that concerns him. The other issue is that part of our work this year is to crown and do some grading and drainage work on Whitaker Lane. There was suggestion of building a parallel trail on the slope of the hillside and close off Whitaker Lane. It was noted it is packed down and would be difficult to break up. Mr. Weathers pointed out it is a multi-use area. Mr. Broomhall had a concern about the bottom of Wellinghurst. Mr. Adair stated Mr. Johnson has included that in this year's plan. Mr. Broomhall questioned taking the big pine down. Mr. Adair advised that Mr. Johnson looked at it and was not sure about taking it out. He suggested the four committee members discuss this.

It was pointed out that some of the trail work that Jeff Lougee thought they might be doing did not need to get done, it was thought that we could use some of those funds to

repair the parking lot at Black Cap. Mr. Adair commented the problem was it is too steep. He noted also that Mr. Lougee reported 3 or 4 months ago that the bog bridge work was done on Puddin Pond trail; however, none of that was done. Mr. Pinkham will check with Mr. Lougee.

Mr. Adair reported that Sept. 30th was National Public Lands Day and New England Mt. Bike Assn. had 25 people show up to work on Red Tail Trail, and did some work on Sticks & Stones.

Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting will be held on December 13th at 6:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier
Recording Secretary