

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

March 14, 2007

A meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:35 pm at the Whitaker Meeting House in North Conway, NH. Present were: Chair, Paul Pinkham, C. David Weathers, Rob Adair, and Alternate, Linda Kearney.

The Chair appointed Linda Kearney as a full voting member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JANUARY 10, 2007

Consideration of the minutes of January 10, 2007, was carried to the next meeting.

REQUEST BY BOY SCOUTS TO USE WHITAKER WOODS FOR EVENT

Andy Chalmers joined the meeting. Mr. Chalmers advised that he would like to hold a Boy Scout Spring Jamboree in Whitaker Woods the first weekend in May. The event would involve hiking, campout skills, a compass course, orienteering, etc. Mr. Chalmers further explained this event would include an overnight stay Friday and Saturday night. Mr. Chalmers explained he felt it would be a good opportunity for the Scouts. Mr. Chalmers next advised he would also propose that the Scouts do a public service spring clean up project in Whitaker Woods.

Mr. Weathers questioned if the Scouts had planned on using fire during the event. Mr. Chalmers stated they plan to cook on propane stoves; however, if they could get a fire permit, they would also like to include this as well. Mr. Weathers stated he does not have a problem with having fires so long as the Scouts get authorization from Fire Chief Pat Preece and that the rest of the Commission is okay with it as well. Mr. Weathers questioned if the Scouts plan to camp in the woods or the field. Mr. Chalmers advised they would like to camp in the woods on the side of Whitaker Woods heading north. Mr. Adair pointed out that there are no facilities available in the woods. Mr. Chalmers advised that the Scouts bring their own facilities. Mr. Chalmers next advised that he would also be contacting the school to see if the Scouts can use the back side of the playground area as well. Mr. Weathers questioned if the Scouts plan on using any vehicles for this event. Mr. Chalmers advised they will not be using any vehicles. Mr. Weathers questioned how many adults would chaperone the event. Mr. Chalmers advised that there would be at least 20 adults accompanying the Scouts on this event.

Mr. Pinkham stated that he would like to give the Conservation Commission time to ponder this event and think about clean up etc. Mr. Chalmers advised that the Scouts to practice "leave no trace". Mr. Pinkham stated this would all need to be put in a letter. Mr. Pinkham requested that Mr. Chalmers provide a letter to the Conservation Commission regarding the event, their practice of leave no trace, as well as their intentions of an offer of a service project. Mr. Chalmers agreed.

UPPER SACO VALLEY LAND TRUST

Linda Como and Larry Garland of the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT) were present. Ms. Como advised the USVLT closed on the Kennett land on West Side Road in September of 2006 and same is featured in their fall newsletter. Ms. Como advised they have a balance of funds of \$57,000 to spend on another project and have found another landowner, Justin Hussey, interested in participating. Mr. Weathers pointed out there may be a question of whether this property is in or out of the 100 year floodplain; it may be within 6 inches and

someone has to make the call. There was a brief discussion regarding the property and location. Ms. Como next discussed Mr. Hussey's commitment to donate and that he will have to pay for the appraisal of the property. Ms. Como reviewed a map of the area with the Commission. Ms. Como stated it may be a little soon to be bringing this forward but they are looking for Conservation Commission support. Mr. Pinkham pointed out that at this time this is lacking a definite proposal to the Commission, which is needed, and then a public hearing would have to be held. Mr. Pinkham further added he is comfortable with the idea this is something the Conservation Commission would likely support. Ms. Como advised she would do further research and bring same back to the Commission.

REPORTS

Don Johnson - Mr. Johnson was not present and no report was provided by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Pinkham did report that the Town of Conway has been designated New Hampshire Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year by the New Hampshire Tree Farm Committee. A field day has been scheduled in September when the Town will be recognized.

Jeff Lougee - Mr. Lougee was not present. Mr. Pinkham reported that a draft MOU has been prepared regarding work proposed by the Nature Conservancy for routine trail work and sign installation, restocking of maps, and work on Pudding Pond Bridges. Mr. Pinkham next reviewed the costs for the work proposed by the Nature Conservancy. Mr. Pinkham further advised that volunteers are needed to help with this work. Rob Adair advised that NEMBA has grants available and he may be able to get \$500 for materials. Mr. Pinkham stated that if everyone if the Commission members were agreeable with the draft MOU he would forward same on to the Town Manager, Earl Sires, for review and consideration. The Commission members were agreeable to forwarding this draft MOU on to the Town Manager.

Treasurer's Report – Commission Treasurer, Carol Lyman, was not present and there was no Treasurer's report.

Selectmen's Report - David Weathers was present; however, there was no Selectmen's report.

DREDGE AND FILL APPLICATIONS

Mr. Weathers first reviewed an application from Ed Bisson on Finlaw Drive. Mr. Weathers advised approval for culvert installation was received.

Mr. Weathers next reviewed a letter had been sent regarding an application filed by Gary Sylvester concerning an installation off of East Conway Road. Mr. Sylvester has contacted Thorne Surveys and Thorne has submitted plans of where a bridge will be located. They will still have five culverts and they will have a bridge. There are still concerns regarding this property as this is still above the five year floodplain. The Commission discussed and agreed another letter should be sent stating the finish grade of the road should be brought down to the one hundred year floodplain elevation or lower.

Mr. Weathers next reviewed an application filed by Wade Tambor on Conway Lake. The Conway Lake Association sent a letter to the State with concerns. Thorne Surveys did a survey for two docks 60 feet and 80 feet and both have been reduced to 30 feet as this is in shallow water. They are resubmitting and it is not known if the state will go along with the new plan. The Commission discussed sending a letter as they did not like the aesthetics; however it was agreed that no letter would be sent in this matter after a brief discussion.

Mr. Weathers next reviewed a Standard Dredge and Fill application was received for two culverts on Prospect Road which was filed by Lois Knight. This is an existing lot and crossing an existing drainage way. Mr. Weathers advised this application looks fine to him.

Mr. Weathers next reviewed a Standard Dredge and Fill application filed by Whitaker and Fadden on the north side East Conway Road. HEB did the design. Mr. Weathers next reviewed they are impacting 16,975 square feet of road/culverts and anything over 10,000 you are supposed to have mitigation. They have hired Lobdell to work on this. The Commission members next reviewed a map of the area and a letter from Lobdell Associates. The Commission agreed no action was necessary on this at this time.

ADJOURN

Linda Kearney moved, seconded by Mr. Weathers, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell
Acting Recording Secretary