

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 12, 2007**

A meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:35 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, NH. Present were: Paul Pinkham, David Weathers, Rob Adair, Carol Lyman, and Alternates, Linda Kearney and Connie Briggs.

The Chair appointed Linda Kearney and Connie Briggs full voting members.

The Chair provided copies of the 2006-07 budget and a brochure/registration form for NH Tree Farm Field Day to be held Sept. 14th.

Mr. Pinkham stated the budget is due Oct. 12th at the town office, noting CCC was very conservative in its budgeting last year. Don Johnson will provide Forest Management Plan implementation. Mr. Pinkham noted that we have budgeted \$3,000 for the last 4 or 5 years to do the survey work at Whitaker and have bumped it – now it is time to get it done. Mr. Weathers noted that year-to-date budget status shows CCC with 68% of its budget remaining; however, Mr. Pinkham reminded him that this is the time of year when expenditure are the greatest, noting that Steve Swenson did some work on a trail for us for a blow down. Also Mr. Pinkham will send Mr. Johnson a reminder for scheduled work, and there is the \$3,000 for The Nature Conservancy.

Approval of Minutes – 8/8/07: Mr. Adair noted that Pg. 2, 1st para. should reflect Doug Armstrong rather than Mr. Daigle as having met with Messrs. Broomhall and Lucy for review of the 5K Loop. **Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Weathers and carried, to approve the Minutes of the August 8th meeting as corrected.**

Reports: Don Johnson could not be present. Mr. Adair had talked with him on the 11th about the trail plan. He was sent a priority list. He asked that we flag a connector trail which Mr. Adair has not had time to do as yet, and will get together with him if more information is needed. Mr. Pinkham reported that Mr. Johnson is alert to what he needs to get done, but is on vacation this week.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Lyman questioned whether the \$20,000 issue has ever been resolved. Mr. Pinkham has a note to call Mr. Weathers to arrange an appointment with the Town Manager to discuss this.

Selectmen's Report: Mr. Weathers noted Mr. Johnson has not yet done the mowing; seeding has been done and should be billed. Mr. Johnson has also done the Shedd Woods reclamation. It was noted the Whitaker piece is about the biggest piece left.

Trail Signs: Mr. Weathers wished to know whether we have abandoned the idea of having them done by the school. Mr. Pinkham stated not entirely. Ms. Kearney got a price of \$2900 from Gemini Signs to make about 80 signs. She also checked with NH

Correctional Industries who make all the street signs, directional signs, etc. There was discussion of 4"x12" signs of various materials – aluminum, vinyl (what the trails bureau uses) and plywood.

Prices: Plywood \$8 each; vinyl are the least expensive at \$4 each, aluminum \$6 each. Ms. Kearney figured it at 80 signs which would take 2 to 3 weeks to make. If made of plywood they would not be routed. Ms. Kearney noted that some of the trail names are quite lengthy so the letters might have to be quite small (about 1"). She suggested we could ask for all 2" letters. Ms. Kearney stated they also have to decide the direction of the arrows. Mr. Pinkham stated we need to establish the size of the type as that will determine the size of the sign, will need to refine the list and get back to them.

Mr. Briggs suggested giving the authority to go ahead and do it within the budget. Mr. Pinkham suggested getting Cort Hansen and Chuck Broomhall together to refine the list. It was suggested the signs be brown. Mr. Adair asked that a sample be provided prior to ordering a large number.

Whitaker Trail Work: Mr. Adair noted there has been no change.

Whitaker Video – Don Johnson will put together an outline for what the content should be for Channel 3.

Bridges: Mr. Pinkham said Earl Sires has inquired of the State about the grant money twice and has not heard back.

Wetlands Applications: Mr. Weathers stated there are none. He reported the Design Review Committee meets soon. The 10-year Plan Review Committee will meet on Sept. 13th at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Briggs questioned what the State will be doing with land they have purchased. Mr. Weathers said it is his understanding that nothing will be available to the town until they begin work. He said with the State's lack of funding, if they put it out to bid, the earliest the southern section would be completed would be ten years from now. They plan to do it in three segments. He pointed out that ten years ago the southern section only was estimated at \$11 million, now it is up to \$60 to \$70 million for the same piece. It is planned that clearing and grubbing will take place in 2009, followed by earth moving, then bridges. Mr. Pinkham noted none of the mitigation land gets turned over to the town until they actually construct the road; if they choose not to construct, the first offer to purchase the land back goes to the people they bought it from; in the meantime it sits there with the State owning it.

Conservation Land Acquisition Criteria and Rules and Regulations are on the back burner.

Mr. Weathers questioned the disposition of the remaining budget funds. Mr. Adair noted Don Johnson's trail work will use up a substantial amount - \$4500; reclamation of Shedd Woods - \$7,054.

Next Meeting Date: October 10, 2007.

Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Kearney and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary