

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 12, 2008**

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, Rob Adair, Connie Briggs and Chuck Broomhall. Forester, Don Johnson, was also present.

1. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 10/8//08 – Ms. Kearney (who could not be present) Emailed the following corrections: Pg. 1, Para. 3, 2nd sentence should read: *...he was told II is the larger part south of Hurricane Mt. Rd.*; Pg. 2, Item 4, 1st sentence, indicates proposal of information boards is by Ms. Kearney (as well as Mr. Hansen) and she was *not proposing, just passing along Mr. Hansen's request*. Mr. Broomhall noted on Pg. 2, 2nd para., Mr. Kebler's name should be spelled "Kris". **Motion was made by Mr. Broomhall, seconded by Mr. Briggs and carried by unanimous vote to approve the Minutes of the Oct. 8th meeting as corrected.**

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports:

a. Don Johnson provided copies of his completed Forest Management Plan explaining how to use it. Various aspects included: Forest type maps, forest resources (color code), stands were identified with an explanation of how the code is broken down depicting type of stand to be found in each section. Stand #1 has been broken down into several sections. A trail map was provided, an introduction is included along with goals, objectives, soils map, and land history which includes all the work done to date. The plan also includes regeneration count.

Mr. Johnson recommended a road be constructed around the field as an alternative to access off Oak Street, in that there has been much opposition voiced by residents there to using the Oak Street access. Mr. Weathers pointed out the final decision is the Selectmen's as to whether we can use that access. Mr. Johnson felt it best to "let it lie" and just come out on Rt. 16. Mr. Briggs said he felt we should talk to the Selectmen for access there rather than stand the expense of making another road.

Mr. Johnson noted the plan also includes appraisal on Whitaker Homesite, history of timber harvest volumes and values, as well as total expense since 1999. He noted there is a net income on Whitaker Homesite; he feels we are in the black with the Town Forest as a whole. Also a schedule of priorities is included.

Mr. Johnson is seeking feedback from the Commission. Mr. Pinkham requested that two additional black and white versions of the Plan be provided in order to have enough for members to review, and that an original be provided to be on file at the Town Office, and

a useful public access trail map that ski tourers and hikers can have, looking at it from the standpoint of a traditional trail map.

Mr. Johnson expressed the opinion that there are far too many trails and Mr. Briggs questioned whether it is possible to drop a tree or two to close off some of the trails. Mr. Johnson said that has been tried, but before long they are cleaned up and gone. He suggested possibly stumps and rocks might work better.

b. Jeff Lougee could not be present and no report was provided.

c. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Lyman could not be present.

d. Selectmen's Report: Mr. Weathers reported Selectmen were appreciative of the reduced budget submitted by the Commission.

Mr. Pinkham made reference to a change in the law which requires a vote of town meeting which would allow Conservation Commissions to acquire conservation easements. He emphasized a need for Mr. Weathers to pursue this with Mr. Sires to see that it gets on the 2009 Town Warrant. Mr. Pinkham said if we continue supporting conservation easements we need to have this authority to do it. Mr. Weathers will follow up on this.

4. Other Business: Diane Smith of Thorne Surveys, Barry Keith, Burr Phillips and Sheila Duane joined the meeting on behalf of Joe Berry of Eastern Slope Inn. The group presented plans for the Bancroft House property for a ten unit subdivision on land near the Whitaker House Suites and an access road leading from the North Conway Fire station, down the banking near the Golf Course maintenance building.

Ms. Duane explained the proposal is to utilize the land west of the Bancroft house, not just for development, but to create an additional emergency access for the fire department so that, in the event there is a problem in North Conway village they would still be able to get to West Side Road. There will be a gated access. Approval has been obtained from the Planning Board for a boundary line adjustment to reconfigure the land between the golf course and property of Eastern Slope Inn. Ms. Duane invited Commission members to a site visit so that when the application is received they will have visuals to be able to understand what the application is for.

Mr. Keith noted the application is to be submitted within the next few weeks and provided an overall plan showing the town, the park, the road. Ms. Smith explained the change in the boundary line adjustment is an attempt to tie the gravel road in with the parking lot at the back of the Inn.

Burr Phillips stated there will be a 24' wide lane open all the time for the fire department just beyond the Golf Course building. The Fire Chief has agreed this would be a benefit to his department if there was something to happen in the village or on River Road.

Mr. Weathers questioned compliance with the floodplain ordinance. Mr. Phillips said the plan is to fill in the 100 year floodplain. He said the approach by the town was that the ordinance says you can have driveways and roads and pass through the floodplain. There would be no parking or buildings there. There was question as to whether a paved road is permitted in the floodplain. Ms. Smith stated there is a special exception for an access for two areas that are out of the floodplain. The Planning Board has given permission for the boundary line adjustment. Site Plan has not yet been approved.

Mr. Keith requested that the Commission arrange time for a site visit prior to snowfall. Mr. Pinkham will contact them after further discussion by the Commission, and set a date and time for the site visit. It was agreed Messrs. Pinkham, Weathers, and Adair will visit the site.

b. 2009 Budget – Mr. Pinkham met with the Town Manager and Finance Director to discuss the budget, noting we came in a little under budget, but could accomplish everything necessary.

c. Whitaker Trail Plan/work progress – It was noted the budget allows for a certain amount of work to be done, which will stop when that money runs out.

h. Rules and Regulations – Ms. Lyman has not yet provided the rewrite; laminated copies of the Rules and Regulations are needed for posting in the kiosks.

g. Wetlands Applications – Mr. Weathers reported there are no new applications. He noted that in the case of Robert Davis, Bald Hill Road, it has been determined that deficiencies discovered have come into compliance with DES with regard to Mr. Davis' second driveway. Deficiencies described were corrected.

Mr. Weathers stated regarding the Joe Berry project, they are using as the selling point the second access for emergency vehicles and he feels to use this as the main selling point is a little misleading. He suggested the Commission look at it again and he will discuss it with the North Conway Fire Chief. He noted the area they are impacting is quite wet. Mr. Broomhall said his concern is that at the top by the Golf Course and the railroad tracks it is too narrow. Mr. Weathers agreed it would require improvements to get vehicles in there. Mr. Briggs said if the Planning Board goes along with the proposal, he sees no problem with it. Mr. Weathers said he still questions the access road within the 100 year floodplain.

Mr. Adair reported he has had contact with Mr. Sires regarding the Red Tail Trail and has signed and returned a Memorandum of Understanding. He would like to get in there next week if possible.

There was some discussion about income from timber harvest. Mr. Weathers said he would prefer to put the money into conservation easements than purchase more land. Mr.

Pinkham agreed conservation easement is the best use of our dollars; however, until the new law is passed we cannot use the money that we have for conservation easement.

5. **Next Meeting** – It was agreed there would be no December meeting unless something comes up before then to prompt such a meeting.
6. **Adjourn: Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Mr. Broomhall and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary