

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
April 8, 2009**

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, Dan Lucy, and Linda Kearney.

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

1. Approval of Minutes: 3/11/09 – Mr. Adair offered the following amendment to Pg. 3, last sentence of first para. under New Business – Mr. Adair did not mean to imply that the State will not talk with us - they will discuss it, but want drawings and town support to move forward – they will not take action without documents. **Motion by Ms. Kearney, second by Mr. Adair, that the Minutes of the March 11th meeting be accepted as amended. Carried by unanimous vote.**

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports:

a. Don Johnson – Mr. Johnson reported regarding the timber sale in East Conway, all the timber has been paid for except for one load of low grade white pine logs by Moose Mt. Logging Co., which will be finalized by April 20th. Mr. Johnson had estimated \$7500 in revenue, the final tally was about \$9500 because they paid a little more than he had anticipated originally. The intent of the harvest was to try to allow enough daylight to get the regeneration to come on in good shape. He feels in about ten years we can go back in again. He stated the job came out looking good, noting it is a *very interesting* piece of land, turns into a sort of wet pine barren with pitch pine growing with red spruce and larch.

As regards work remaining to be done, Mr. Johnson wished to know where things stand in light of proposed budget cuts. Mr. Pinkham said the submitted proposal for the Forest Management budget was \$10,500, including consulting services; the decision was to reduce the work component by \$1500. Mr. Johnson said there are nine items to be accomplished - the mowing of the road and trail at the Vista could be deleted which would eliminate \$300; also there is \$1400 for release work which could easily wait a year. Mr. Weathers suggested not eliminating the mowing, but to eliminate the \$1400 for release work.

Mr. Johnson suggested eliminating spraying the poison ivy at Shedd Woods, saving another \$300. Mr. Pinkham noted pieces of the split rail fence there are falling apart and questioned whether the town could take care of that. Mr. Weathers stated nothing can get done until after July 4th. Mr. Johnson offered to take care of it. Mr. Pinkham suggested clearing below the banking down to the river to open up the view.

Mr. Pinkham summarized that the work still to be accomplished on the list is basically Compartment #1 (brush saw the saplings and clear the vista). Mr. Johnson questioned trail work. Mr. Pinkham stated there is funding in the budget for that. Mr. Adair suggested waiting until the snow goes to see how well it dries out. Mr. Weathers noted, in looking at the map, the number of trails in Whitaker Woods, and suggested closing off some of them. Mr. Pinkham pointed out because of public access it is hard to manage that. Mr. Adair stated Lower Schuss has already been abandoned, lower Hell's Kitchen is no longer being used, and some others have already been abandoned.

b. Jeff Lougee – Not present, no report provided.

c. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Lyman could not be present, no report provided.

d. Selectmen's Report – Mr. Weathers wants to meet with the Finance Director to see if we can finalize the monies, noting there is a description of four accounts and we need to find out what we can spend from and what not. It was agreed he and Mr. Pinkham would arrange to meet with Ms. Philbrick and Mr. Sires before the next meeting.

Mr. Weathers reported the town received a questionnaire from DES regarding DOT's upgrading the crossing on Intervale Cross Roads, posing such questions as "*Do we have any knowledge or concerns in that area for that work?*" "*Are we aware of any natural resources that are significant to that community?*" "*Are there any water quality concerns?*" "*Are there any existing hazardous materials or contaminants in that vicinity?*" Mr. Weathers asked that if anyone can think of anything to be reported to let him know and he will respond back to the town.

Mr. Weathers reported on a situation on land owned by Digiandomenice at a site at the river access at the end of Echo Acres Road. He and Mr. Pinkham had visited the site last summer because there was reportedly some type of excavation going on. The owner had an arrangement with Justin Hussey and some heavy equipment was being used in there. The operator took it upon himself to clean out the drainage ditch; he was stopped by Mr. Hussey due to a complaint that was registered. Mr. Hussey is responsible for the restoration of the site since the equipment operator was working for him.

e. Member Roundtable – None.

4. Other Business:

a. Whitaker Trail Plan/work progress – It was felt when the weather breaks it can then be decided what needs to be done there.

Whitaker Management Plan – Mr. Pinkham will draft a summary.

b. Trail Signs/Information Boards/Rules & Regulations – Ms. Lyman reports she has not heard back from the Town Office as to the information to go on the laminated posters

for the information signs. The Selectmen have asked for some changes to the Rules and Regulations and the Office was to provide them.

Signs – Ms. Kearney will look to see which ones need to be replaced and will contact the ski association for their input as well.

c. Whitaker Video – Ms. Kearney asked for explanation. Mr. Pinkham stated Don Johnson would like to produce a video of the forestry work done. It would become a useful educational tool. The intent was to work with either the schools or Channel 3; however, it was suggested that probably someone would have to be hired to do it.

d. Wetlands Applications – Mr. Weathers reported on a shoreline impact application by William Gover on Eaton Road/Rt. 153, abutting Dolloff Pond. The intent is to construct a new entrance to the five lot subdivision.

Mr. Weathers noted that NHDOT, on Rt. 16 adjacent to the outlet into the Saco River, possibly near the scenic outlook, is repairing the existing banking, replacing pipe, upgrading the culvert and fixing the banking.

New Business: Mr. Pinkham commented that the Commission in prior years had a policy of visiting the various properties over which we have jurisdiction, and suggested we should take some time to look at and check these sites, i.e. Walker's Pond. Mr. Weathers suggested the next meeting be a work meeting with everyone meeting at Walker's Pond Trail at 6:30 p.m. and work on the trail while discussing regular Commission business.

5. **Next Meeting** – May 13th – a work meeting at Walker's Pond Trail – 6:30 p.m.
6. **Adjourn: 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