

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 8, 2010**

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, Carol Lyman, Linda Kearney, Chuck Broomhall and Dan Lucy. Also present was Wink Lees representing The Nature Conservancy.

1. Approval of Minutes: 8/11/10 – Motion by Mr. Adair, second by Ms. Lyman, to approve the Minutes of the Aug. 11th meeting as written. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports:

a. Don Johnson – Mr. Johnson could not be present and had provided no report.

b. Wink Lees – The Nature Conservancy – Mr. Lees provided pictures of the NH Student Conservation Assn. Trail Crew involved in various projects: striping bark from timber, installing timbers along Black Cap Connector Spur Trail, excavating soil, installing a stone check step and water bars. Also included were photos of refinished conservation area signs placed east of North-South Road at Locust Lane access, and at Thompson Road Parking area. A map was provided showing the line that had been repainted between TNC property and Conway Common lands.

Mr. Lees offered a draft brochure which The Nature Conservancy has been working on, noting they have changed the format and will include a new map. He noted it is his understanding that CCC approval is traditionally sought prior to printing. Mr. Pinkham noted that traditionally CCC has helped fund the production of the brochure and would expect an opportunity to review and comment. Mr. Lees stated he will get prices as soon as the map is done, but noted the text is basically unchanged. Mr. Pinkham said he would like to see the final version of the map and review the text, and suggested at least two other key people review it prior to final printing. Mr. Lees will Email it to the members.

Mr. Lees questioned the unauthorized bike trail at Black Cap coming from Red Tail Trail. Mr. Adair stated that is not a bike trail, but is used by mineral collectors - there is a network in there that is not on a map, one trail comes onto Pudding Pond Conservation Land, then onto State land, and on to Redstone. Mr. Lees said he has seen some evidence of people cutting out trails with saws and will bring it to the Commission's attention as he sees it. Comment was made that this is difficult to control. Mr. Adair said he finds that people turn to NEMBA to try to police things that are going on, but we do not want to be policemen.

Mr. Pinkham expressed appreciation for the work done by TNC in refinishing the signs, and looks forward to reviewing the brochure. Mr. Lees noted also the Rules and Regulations have all been placed at kiosks and all major locations.

Upon question of a bill to be presented to the Town, Mr. Lees will look into a bill for work done to this point. Mr. Pinkham stated we would like it before the end of the year; he would also like suggestions as to what we should budget for next year.

c. Treasurer's Report – Carol Lyman – Mr. Pinkham reviewed the Treasurer's Report noting that to date we have spent over \$9,000 of our \$17,200 budgeted. He noted that some of our forest land improvement and trail work in Whitaker Woods should consume the bulk of the remaining money. Mr. Adair sent out the priority list made some time ago and it seems that the bulk of what remains to be done is along the power line trail. Mr. Pinkham noted the budget for Whitaker Woods is \$2100 for trail building and relocation and stabilizing, \$800 for mowing the Vista. The Abenaki work has been done.

Conservation CU Account - Mr. Pinkham noted interest income of \$98 in Aug., year-to-date \$814. He also noted the only other activity was the payment to Upper Saco Valley Land Trust.

Hubbard-Davis Account has seen no activity except interest.

d. Selectmen's Report – David Weathers – Mr. Weathers reported Earl Sires is still waiting for a letter of support for funding for the Abenaki work. Mr. Weathers will volunteer to survey that site, preparing a map of where the buildings are located, etc.

He reported NHDOT has made presentation to Selectmen regarding work to be done to the Scenic Overlook just north of the Elks Club building. They will repair the culvert south of the monument and repair the area down over the embankment. The lower section next to the river will be riprap, there will be no impairment of the view. Mr. Weathers pointed out the view is closing in and needs work. He noted the town crew is "not excited" about cutting there given the terrain, and Messrs. Sires and Weathers have discussed including something in this year's budget to hire it done. Mr. Weathers suggested an estimate be obtained from Don Johnson on what he or someone else might charge. Mr. Pinkham suggested we might be able to fit some of the work in this fall, but agreed the bulk of the work would have to be budgeted for.

Mr. Weathers noted Selectman Dickinson has commented in the newspaper regarding what he would like to see as regards repairs to the boat ramp at the public beach on Conway Lake. Ms. Kearney stated was told all boat ramps are owned or operated by the State. Mr. Weathers stated they do not own them, but there has to be access provided. There are some slabs in there now, but there is also some erosion and boats are dropping off. He said, personally, he does not like to see the boat ramp right beside the beach. He noted a study committee did a search for a better location, but were unable to locate a viable site and gave up on it and nothing has been done since.

Mr. Weathers said “are we going to repair the ramp? Yes.” “Will it be able to handle big boats? No.” Mr. Pinkham asked as regards the drop off at the end of the ramp, what the proposed fix is. Mr. Weathers said there is no final plan for it, they may be able to put in a concrete slab or stone. He noted the raft has been removed because of the liability issue. The consensus of the CCC was to keep the State out of it.

4. Other Business:

a. Budget – Mr. Pinkham said it has been requested that the proposed budget be submitted by October 14th. We need a narrative of department goals and any significant changes, and need to detail information on things like seminar expenses, dues, etc. He noted there has been suggestion of putting some money toward redoing the scenic overlook, it was agreed we could use last year’s budget and then get input from Mr. Johnson for work to be done. He stated he cannot envision our attempting to justify an increase in the budget and asked for ideas to be submitted by Email or phone.

b. Land Use Study – Ms. Lyman said she did go through what files there were at the town office in an attempt to locate a copy of the study. Mr. Pinkham suggested it may be included as part of the EIS for the bypass. Ms. Lyman will research that.

c. Whitaker Trail Plan/5k progress – It was reported they will get some work done on it this year.

d. Wetlands Applications – Mr. Weathers reported on a shoreline impact permit for Lemay on River Street in Conway Village - it is a building lot they have to have protection for, the house is under construction. The permit was issued at the end of June.

Mr. Weathers reported Saco River Run has filed an application for alteration of terrain.

Charles Vanderhoof of Madison has provided notification to do some cutting on Brownfield Road and has agreed to follow the best practices.

It was reported a Minimum Impact Expedited application has been made by Schooneer for temporary impact of 103 sf over intermittent stream for a single family residence off Crown Ridge Road in North Conway on Jessica Way. It is to put in utility lines.

Lucy Brook – The Lucy family has made application and will be doing some banking stabilization on Lucy Brook for 153 linear feet they want to protect. It is a combination of riprap, coir log installation, and vegetation upstream of the bridge.

e. Rules & Regulations Posting –A letter has been received from Cort Hansen to the effect that information boards are up in the locations indicated, with laminated maps. According to Mr. Lees, the Rules and Regulations have been posted.

General Discussion: Ms. Kearney questioned why everyone is so opposed to having the State involved in the boat ramp. Mr. Weathers said he thinks people are afraid the State will

come in and dictate what they can do, when it can be open, when it cannot - the State says we have to have a public access to anything in excess of ten acres. Mr. Adair suggested people may feel if the State is involved they will give specific requirements, but will not provide the funding. Mr. Pinkham said it is a shame with that body of water that we do not have a better facility there. Mr. Lucy suggested possibly people are concerned if the State becomes involved we will end up with a ramp bigger than we want.

5. Next Meeting – October 13, 2010.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier
Recording Secretary