

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 13, 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, and Karla Allan.

1. **Approval of Minutes: 9/8/10** – Due to the low turnout, it was decided to defer approval of the Minutes until the November meeting.

2. **Public Comment:** None.

3. **Reports:** – None.

4. **Other Business:**

a. **Budget** – The Chair distributed copies of the proposed budget stating Mr. Johnson came up with \$15,200 which exceeds the total we put in for Forest and Wetlands Management (\$14,550). Mr. Pinkham suggested reducing Whitaker Woods trail rebuilding/relocation to \$2100 (down from \$3000) in order to get back to the \$14,550.

Mr. Weathers questioned whether we are relocating it for safety and erosion. Mr. Adair explained coming off the top of the Vista and heading south, all that money goes into grooming for cross country skiing. When skiing it, there are two sharp corners and they would like to move that piece up to join Armstrong, avoiding that whole “kink” and close that off. He said there are a bunch of big pines there so the snow does not get to the ground. Mr. Adair agreed we are putting thousands of dollars a year into Whitaker Woods, but the system has been dramatically improved in the last five years - we need to make it groomable in good snow conditions.

Mr. Pinkham questioned whether we are putting all the money we should be into the forest management system, noting if we are satisfied we are doing all those things and have some money left, then we could put it into Whitaker Woods. Mr. Weathers said he wants to make sure the forestry work is being done. Ms. Allan said it looks like they have done the forestry work, but questioned whether we have been yielding some revenue on it too. Mr. Pinkham said we have made significant improvement in our forest management work. Mr. Weathers said if we look at the history of what’s been spent on this property compared to the revenue, it does not even come close. Mr. Pinkham said part of the balance we are striking is the hospitality aspect which maintains the cross country ski club – that is one of the key sites in our trail system. Also there are the ski races – it is a venue that is used for the businesses by people from away, as well as the high school kids who race.

Mr. Pinkham said if we reduced the \$3,000 by \$600 or \$700 we would probably be within our \$14,550 range. Otherwise, we have only the cooperative work we do in conjunction with

Nature Conservancy. Ms. Allan questioned the membership category and was told that is for dues for State conservation associations.

Mr. Pinkham said he will go back to the membership with a proposal matching last year's budget, reducing the Forest & Wetlands Management category to \$2100, and in turn go back to the Board of Selectmen prior to presenting to the Budget Committee

Wetlands Applications: Mr. Weathers reported that regarding property of Judy Latham at Justamere Road, he had visited the site and took photos, and as he was taking the pictures he observed a big excavator and a crane there and could see material falling into the river. He stated that he estimates that action accelerated the erosion by ten years.

When Mr. Weathers reported it to authorities, he was asked to send copies of the photos. They have contacted the inspector who has enforcement authority; however, he has not heard anything further. Ms. Allan acknowledged the State is very slow as she has witnessed with an issue she has going on now.

Mr. Weathers reported that on Sept. 17th DES received a standard Dredge & Fill application from Fred John Lucy Nominee Trust and M & M Lucy Revocable Trust.

Mr. Weathers presented a copy of a letter received from Alternate, Conrad Briggs, tendering his resignation as of September 23, 2010.

Mr. Adair reported he had met with Cort Hansen, of MWV Ski Touring, and Nat Lucy who were very interested in doing some work in Whitaker Woods on a volunteer basis. Since we were short on money this year for trail work, they suggested doing some mowing if we could take the money allocated for that and put it into trail work. Mr. Pinkham noted work we had projected has been done, but noted we have about \$1300 available which Mr. Johnson is prepared to come back and spend if they want to coordinate exchanging volunteer work with him. It was Mr. Adair's opinion that the work they seem to be willing to take on could save us thousands of dollars. He will coordinate with Mr. Johnson.

Due to the fact that they would be using heavy equipment on town property, there was question of the insurance issue. Mr. Adair will run that by the Town Manager. Also he suggested Mr. Lucy may have insurance for using his rental equipment. Ms. Allan suggested sometimes temporary insurance can be obtained.

5. **Next Meeting** – November 10, 2010.

6. **Adjourn:** Motion was made by Mr. Adair, seconded by Mr. Weathers and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail T. Carrier
Recording Secretary