

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
April 13, 2011**

A meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, NH. Members present were: Paul Pinkham, David Weathers, Rob Adair, Dan Lucy, Carol Lyman and Linda Kearney. Also present was Forester, Don Johnson.

1. Approval of Minutes: 2/9/11 – Notation was made by Ms. Kearney that at the bottom of Pg. 1 the last sentence should read: “They are also interested in eagles, loons and peregrine falcons.” **Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Kearney and carried by unanimous vote, that the Minutes of the Feb. 9th meeting be approved as corrected.**

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports:

a. Don Johnson noted that in the past they have gotten behind on Whitaker Woods trail improvement, trail building and relocation. \$2350 was budgeted for that and he would like to see it done a little earlier this year.

He noted as for the vista work on the Red Tail Trail, information needs to get to NH Fish & Game to avail ourselves of funding available through them. He estimated we can get \$1050 to help toward this. Mr. Johnson noted it is difficult to get in there, but John Brown has the equipment, although it is expensive per day, so he is not sure which way to go on that. He will continue to consider it. He felt it is important to get to the wildlife openings; he will work on getting this planned out.

Mr. Johnson said he plans to get going on the weeding, thinning, and release work and will draft a work agreement and get in over to the Town Manager.

Mr. Johnson reported he had gone into the Pudding Pond lot. He proposed around Sticks and Stones doing a little overstory and removal. He stated one of the recommendations is to do a softwood release, but there is no point in doing it before doing the overstory work. He added the proposal will be a money-making project, would be done with cut-to-length type of harvesting. The brush stays in the area, there would be no chipping. It was agreed Messrs. Johnson and Adair will work together on this. Mr. Johnson said he would like to have Moose Mountain Logging do the work, they do a nice job and try to accommodate the town of Conway. He said as regards timber prices, they are not real strong, but have been steady – there is always a residual demand for lumber and we are filling that demand. He said Pudding Pond would have some pine and some oak and he will be working on marketing that, possibly realizing a \$6,000 to \$9,000 return to the town. It will not change the aesthetics of that area greatly.

Mr. Adair questioned when he would be looking to get into Pudding Pond. Mr. Johnson stated it needs to be dry, possibly mid summer when the bark tightens up; August would be ideal. He noted with the cut-to-length process there is no residual damage in getting it out.

b. Wink Lees – The Nature Conservancy – Mr. Lees was not present, thus there was no report. Mr. Pinkham reported we have a bill; we need to get a work order from them.

c. Treasurer’s Report – It was requested a Treasurer’s Report be provided for the next meeting.

d. Selectmen’s Report - Mr. Weathers reported Mr. Sires has asked that the CCC review its decision on the Joseph Bolton property on Irma Lane off Pequawket Drive which Mr. Bolton is offering as a gift to the town. He is not delinquent in his taxes and Mr. Sires questions why the Commission did not accept it. Mr. Sires is asking for more consideration before making a decision. Mr. Weathers noted if the town does not accept it, Mr. Sires feels it would go up for taxes, which would be a three year process. It was noted most of the like lots are not buildable; the theory is if the town were ever to put sewer lines down there, some of the lots would become acceptable for building. It is a half acre lot. Mr. Sires wanted it reviewed again to make sure it is the agreement of the Commission.

Mr. Pinkham, referencing the January 19th meeting Minutes, quoted: “The consensus of the members present was the CCC does not recommend the town acquire the property, but should put it up for auction.” It was noted the value of the land is \$8,000. Mr. Weathers stated the owner no longer wants the property and wants to donate it to the town. Mr. Adair questioned whether it might not make more sense to accept it than to lose the taxes. **Motion was made by Mr. Adair, seconded by Ms. Kearney, that the CCC recommend the town accept the parcel being offered by Joseph Bolton on Irma Lane as a gift. Motion carried by unanimous vote.** Mr. Weathers will report the action to Mr. Sires.

4. Other Business:

a. Conservation Easements – Mr. Pinkham stated he still has to meet with Mr. Sires to discuss conservation easements. It is a matter of prioritizing. We have money in our land acquisition account that can be used to fund the conservation acquisition easements.

b. Members and reappointments – Mr. Pinkham noted there is a vacancy in the Alternate position; also we will have reappointments for people who are due for reappointments. Mr. Weathers questioned when we would be advertising. Mr. Pinkham suggested if anyone knows of someone who would be a valuable asset to the Commission to encourage them to come forward.

c. Whitaker Trail Plan/work progress – See Pg. 1

d. Wetlands Applications – Mr. Weathers stated there are no new applications. Robert Durkee on Morrell Lane in Center Conway has been approved to construct a stone patio and

walkway, and replace a septic system, impacting 7,962 sf under the shoreline impacting permit.

Northbrook Condominiums is doing work through the North Conway Water Precinct on a non site specific permit, for 355 sf of wetlands in regard to the new sewer line.

Robert Nelson off Davis Hill Road proposes putting in new culverts for a new driveway. Both the Town Engineer and Mr. Pinkham have reviewed this. It was decided it would be treated as a driveway access onto a town road. Mr. Weathers sent a letter to the State advising that we concur that they would be realigning their driveway location which would impact less wetlands and be more efficient if at some time it would become a town road.

Regarding the TNC bill sent to the CCC, Ms. Kearney questioned whether we will get another bill from them this year. Mr. Pinkham stated there is a grace period in which you have a chance to pay for work done the year previous.

5. Next Meeting – May 11, 2011.

6. Adjourn: Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Ms. Lyman and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail T. Currier
Recording Secretary