

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 14, 2011**

The Sept. 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, Carol Lyman, Dan Lucy, Larry Huemmler, and Linda Kearney. Also present was Forester, Donald Johnson.

1. Approval of Minutes 6/8/11 & 8/10/11: Motion by Mr. Weathers, second by Mr. Adair and carried by unanimous vote, to approve the Minutes of the June 8th meeting as circulated. Motion by Ms. Kearney, second by Mr. Weathers and carried by unanimous vote, to approve the Minutes of the Aug. 10th meeting as circulated.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports:

a. Don Johnson- Mr. Johnson reported they have brush-sawed the trees that were sprouting on the two landings on Hurricane Mt. Road and Pudding Pond, and will do Abenaki in the near future.

Mr. Johnson is still waiting to hear back from John Brown who is to do some wildlife management work on Hurricane Mt. Rd. Common Land with his Brontosaurus machine; however, they are waiting for it to dry out. He noted it is good timing for the wildlife, nesting birds will be out.

Mr. Johnson said he finally got the file of the State's corridor into his GPS and went out and flagged the limits of it (30' to 40') – they know roughly where it is. Jeff Lougee helped with the program. He noted the landing on Pudding Pond is not in the State's corridor; however, Sticks & Stones Trail is entirely on State land.

b. Nature Conservancy Report - Wink Lees was not present.

c. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Lyman provided an updated Treasurer's Report. Mr. Weathers, noting the report was just for the account showing this year's budget, questioned the status of other accounts. Ms. Lyman did not have those figures available, but noted there has been little increase as interest rates are down. Mr. Huemmler questioned a \$50 expenditure to the State and was told we are charged \$50 for having a railroad crossing at Whitaker Woods.

d. Selectmen's Report - Mr. Weathers said the town is running into a situation with FEMA reimbursement and is looking for help with the funding to repair Hussey Field after Tropical Storm Irene. He questioned whether the land acquisition account can be used to cover the town's 25% contribution toward the cost to repair the field, which will include the repair of the banking and scouring, and replacing the trees. The total cost is estimated to be

about \$50,000. The entire amount would have to be paid up front with the hope that FEMA will reimburse 75%. Mr. Weathers questioned how the CCC members would feel about coming up with the 25% (between \$10,000 and \$12,000), hoping that the full amount does not have to be covered entirely by the town.

Mr. Pinkham said he reviewed the accounts and there is no place we can do what is being asked; however the alternative is the regular town budget which includes about \$15,000 for Forest and Wetlands Management. He noted the money in the Cathedral Pines/Hubbard-Davis Account can be used for the management of the Hubbard-Davis property; however, that deed also says those dollars could be used elsewhere on conservation land. He suggested the CCC could reimburse the town for money we have already spent out of the Hubbard-Davis fund, that would then make those dollars available - our regular budget has no such restrictions.

Mr. Weathers said they want to get the debris off the field and still have time for a fall seeding – time is running short. He said the banking is scoured and there is no riprap on the western side. The plan is now to try to fix it this fall. He stated a lot of people use that field and the town is going to be very restrictive on the use the field. Mr. Weathers stated what will happen to the abutment over a long period of time we do not know; however, it is a State road and is somewhat a State problem. He noted the town puts, on average, about \$1500 to \$2,000 a year into general maintenance of that field. Mr. Pinkham felt we can come up with \$10,000 within our budget. It was noted that Hussey Field is conservation land managed by the recreation department; the town owns it, they can choose to do whatever they wish. Ms. Kearney questioned whether we can use that money. Mr. Pinkham stated it is described in the endowment how we can use that money.

Mr. Weathers said he only wished to know, if we can do it legally, whether the CCC would be in favor of supporting “X” number of dollars toward it, with the hope that we would be reimbursed, which would not happen for a year. Mr. Pinkham said a legal method of funding using accounts we are responsible for, would be to take the dollars out of our regular budget and reimburse the other accounts.

Mr. Lucy questioned whether it is Mr. Weather’s opinion, of all the things we do, that this is necessary. Mr. Weathers stated yes, taking out the snags, taking out the stuff that is sitting on the surface, and pulling the gravel back up, making a smooth transition on the lip; then we have to make the field usable by removing the cobble. He said the bulk of the work is in the swale and upper end. The State will grant the permit to do it.

After a great deal of discussion as to possible solutions/motions/consensus, it was concluded that no consensus could be reached.

A Motion was suggested: As regards the position from CCC relative to the question of assisting with some sort of legal funding for a part of the Hussey Field reclamation. Mr. Weathers is seeking support to take back to the Selectmen. Mr. Lucy said he is for it, but would want some discussion about where and how much. No action taken.

A second Motion suggested: That the Commission supports the attempt to reclaim the Hussey Field if legal means can be found that would make some contribution to that reclamation expense not to exceed 25% of the total cost, with the legality and amount ultimately to be approved by the Commission No action taken.

A third Motion suggested: CCC supports the reclamation attempt of Hussey Field if funds are available through the CCC accounts, to pay up to a maximum of 25% of the bid price to restore Hussey Field.

There was discussion as to whether the Board wished to offer a consensus as follows: 1) Reclamation of Hussey Field is a generally worthwhile attempt, 2) we agree if we can find the means we would attempt to fund up to 25%.

Mr. Lucy questioned why it is deemed to be worthwhile, what do we, as a town, get out of it? Mr. Weathers said it is a recreation field with an often photographed scenic view of Mt. Washington. Mr. Huemmler said he thinks it should be repaired because if we do not, there will be bigger problems. Mr. Lucy noted then the town would be putting money into it to save a State road, while a lot of the problems were to do with the road they put in.

Conclusion: A consensus was not reached.

e. Member Roundtable –

Mr. Adair said regarding conservation easements, he emailed Earl Sires a couple of weeks ago and has not heard back. Regarding Whitaker Trail, there has not been any movement; however, Nat Lucy suggested they should work on smoothing the existing trails so that they are groomable when there is light snow.

4. Other Business:

a. Conservation Easements – See above.

b. Saco River Committee – Appointment of Mr. Huemmler: Mr. Huemmler's name has been submitted as the CCC representative to the committee. There has been no word back as yet. Mr. Weathers stated they are in the process of setting a date for the first meeting and he will be notified. He said there was been question as to what to use or what not to use as an access point for the delivery of people.

f. Wetlands Applications – Mr. Weathers reported a driveway permit application has been approved for Robert Nelson on Old Goshen Road. It has been realigned so it would be easier to do.

Mr. Weathers stated for the record, regarding the Latham property on Justamere Road, the State has said they have not received anything from the town; however, Mr. Weathers did submit documentation and has copies of everything he sent to them. He stated he has visited

the site, and took more photos, and found very little evidence that any of the work they did last year is left.

5. Next Meeting – October 12, 2011

6. Adjourn: Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Ms. Lyman and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary