

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
April 10, 2013**

The April 10, 2013 meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, NH. Members present were: Rob Adair (Chair) C. David Weathers (Selectmen's Representative), Linda Kearney, Dan Lucy, Larry Huemmler and Matt Coughlin (Alternate).

Mr. Adair appointed Matt Coughlin as a full voting member for this meeting.

Conservation Commission members, Karla Allen and Carol Lyman joined the meeting at 6:33 and 6:35 p.m. respectively.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 3/13/13

Mr. Adair stated that in the minutes of 3/13/13 on page 1, under the discussion regarding the Marshall Land – West Side Road, the second sentence should be corrected as follows "Mr. Adair said he ~~assumed~~understood Mr. Marshall wanted to sell them all together." **Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Kearney, to accept the minutes of 3/13/13 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REPORTS

Wink Lees and Jeff Lougee/TNC - Mr. Lees and Mr. Lougee joined the meeting to discuss the Marshall Redstone/East Conway land. Mr. Lees presented maps and reviewed the areas of land. Mr. Lees next advised that, as negotiations stand as of now, they have an agreement with the Marshalls for 1,000 acres of land and this agreement may have been signed today. This will be a two part closing and they will close on one half in the fall and the other half next year.

Mr. Lees next further reviewed the maps and advised that over to the west of the Marshall property is a piece of land owned by the Doloff sisters which is in an estate. A deed to this land is going to the NH Audubon Society and they (TNC) have been working on a deal for this piece of property with them as well. Mr. Lees next reviewed that two other abutting properties are owned by Sut Marshall and Glenn Saunders and another by Mr. Shiavi, and the TNC is having ongoing dialogue with them about these properties.

Mr. Lees next advised that they went out and looked at the subject property and noticed there was a lot of deer activity. Mr. Lees advised that he has spent some time in the area with a biologist to see if this is a good deer area and it looks like they have a good wintering area on this property. It is about a 200 acre deer yard and this probably does extend onto other land as well. Further, Fish and Game is also excited about this and are very supportive of the project.

Mr. Lees next reviewed there is also a pitch pine community and he has done some work to help refine this on the map. He thinks this may be the only place in the state that is on a bony ridge. Mr. Lees further added that he thinks this is the type of thing that belongs with the preserve in a long term status.

Mr. Lees next reviewed a map showing existing trails and a road. Mr. Lees advised that some of the trails are popular mountain bike trails and they have been working with NEMBA to find and discuss access to this land. They have also held discussions with NEMBA on formally maintaining the trails in the future. Mr. Lees next reported they are looking to establish a foot trail that will link in with the Middle and Peaked Mountain trail system and that this would require new trail construction.

There was next discussion of access to this property. Mr. Lees advised there is no frontage for this property on East Conway Road. They have discussed using the pit road. This road is gated now and it is the road that goes to the town landfill property. They would like to propose taking the gate out. Mr. Weathers stated that to get into this property to get to the trails (in the area of snowmobile trail 19) they would have to have an agreement with the town for public access to the land. He wonders also if this trail is too far out and that that it wouldn't get any use. Mr. Weathers further advised that there is also a bridge back in this area and cautioned against putting any weight on this bridge. Mr. Weathers next stated that this area also gets four wheeler use and suggested that the area would need to be made four wheeler proof. Mr. Lees advised that they are aware of this situation. Mr. Lees further stated that he is open to other suggestions for access to the area besides using the pit road.

Mr. Weathers next brought up the deer use that was discussed earlier in the meeting and questioned if this was based on this year or longer. Mr. Lougee stated it was based on walks through the property, etc. Mr. Lougee further stated that that it didn't appear there was a lot of bedding down but that they move through this area a lot. There was further discussion of the deer area.

Mr. Lees next stated that if the Commission members had any further thoughts on land access to please let him know. Ms. Kearny questioned how long it would be from when they acquired the land until they would get trail access. Mr. Lees stated that it would be a while as they have a budget. They would need to put in a parking lot and then deal with trail issues. Right now they are looking at raising money to acquire the land and they are also need money for the stewardship.

Mr. Lees next stated that he would like to close by saying that they hope that the town will be able to support this project on some level. He will also provide information on their fundraising for this in the future. Mr. Adair asked about LCHIP funds. Mr. Lees advised they did get some LCHIP funding.

Jeff Lougee next reported on the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Mr. Lougee advised they had an SCA crew last season in September and October that worked on the Black Cap Connector Trail. Further, they have applied again for money to do work in the Black Cap area and the trail by Artist Falls. The SCA crew will be coming back to help when they try to improve some sections of the trail and they may also try to do some trail relocation as well.

Mr. Lougee next advised that they also received money from the RTP program for refreshing kiosk areas. They will be putting up new posters and panels and this will be designed by someone on their Concord staff. Mr. Lees stated that they would also like to add some content about their partnership with the town, etc., and would like to come back to a Conservation Commission meeting in the future to further discuss same.

Mr. Lougee next advised that the TNC also has a yearly Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with the Town. The amount of the MOU has been \$2,000 for the last several years. They will be asking for a renewal of this agreement. The MOU is for keeping the kiosks stocked, blow down clearing and other work. A draft agreement will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Don Johnson/FLI - There was no report given.

OTHER BUSINESS

NHDOT Mitigation Lands – Mr. Adair reported the town received an Agreement from the State of NH with regard to the NHDOT mitigation lands.

Trails – Mr. Adair reported that he was biking on a trail and came across an area where someone was leaf blowing and this is not allowed by TNC. Mr. Adair next advised that he was able to get the name of someone and he did contact them and explained the problems with leaf blowing. He also asked this person to fix the area and this has been done. Mr. Lees explained that if someone were continue doing this it would make a washed out gully in the area.

Mr. Adair next reported that NEMBA would like to come in to the next Conservation Commission meeting to give a presentation and discuss helping maintain trails.

Marshall West Side Road Property - Mr. Adair reported that on the Marshall West Side Road property the property owners did not feel the appraisal was in the line of what it should be. Mr. Weathers stated that he also talked with Sut and they are getting an appraisal and then we can sit down again and discuss this matter. Mr. Adair next stated that he would talk with our appraiser and ask some questions as well.

Drinking Water Protection Conference – Mr. Adair reported that a Drinking Water Protection Conference is being held in Concord on May 1, 2013. If anyone is interested in attending the cost is \$40.

USVLT Multi Town Meeting – Mr. Adair reported that the USVLT and FB Environmental will be holding a multi town meeting on May 11, 2013 at the Fryeburg Academy. This is a community forum for citizens and decision makers and attendance is free of charge. Ms. Allen, Mr. Coughlan and Mr. Adair advised that they may be attending this meeting.

CVFD Easement Request on Pequawket Drive – Mr. Adair reported that the CVFD has requested an easement on a property located on Pequawket Drive (Tax Map/Lot 277-119) and the town has asked that the Conservation Commission provide a recommendation on this request. There was a brief discussion and a review of the location. **Ms. Kearney moved, seconded by Ms. Lyman, that the Conservation Commission recommend the granting of the easement to the CVFD on Tax Map/Lot 277-119. The motion carried unanimously**

Whitaker Woods Events – Mr. Adair reported the 5th and 6th grade class from Jackson Grammar School would like to hold a 5k run in Whitaker Woods on May 18, 2013. There was brief discussion. Ms. Allen stated she felt this is a good event and the more events the better so long as there is no damage to Whitaker Woods. Mr. Adair commented that this gets kids out running. **Ms. Allen moved, seconded by Ms. Lyman to recommend the Jackson Grammar School 5k Run in Whitaker Woods on May 18, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.**

Red Jersey Cyclery/Summer Race Series – Mr. Adair reviewed Red Jersey Cyclery is requesting use of Whitaker Woods for a Summer Race Series event on Thursday evenings as they have had in the past. Ms. Kearney commented that she feels they need to let people know that they will be racing bikes in the woods. Mr. Adair stated that he thinks they may use tape to show the areas in the woods they will be using. There was further brief discussion. **Ms. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, to recommend the Red Jersey Cyclery Summer Race Series. The motion carried unanimously.**

Selectmen's Report/David Weathers – Selectman Weathers reported a meeting was held with the Marshall's at Town Hall regarding the land on West Side Road.

Mr. Weathers next reported the town received a favorable ruling in court with regard to a lot in Transvale Acres. Also, there was a hearing on another case and we are awaiting a ruling from the Judge.

Wetland Applications – There were no wetland applications.

Treasurer's Report – Ms. Lyman presented a Treasurer's report and reviewed same with the Commission.

Member Roundtable – There was a brief discussion on the presentation made by Wink Lees earlier in the meeting. It was pointed out that TNC may ask the town for funds. The general consensus was that the town will not chip in for this acquisition. The Commission also agreed that they had decided previously to go with the West Side Road property instead of Redstone/East Conway property. There was further brief discussion and the Commission agreed not to make a decision on this request at this time.

Mr. Huemmler next reported that a meeting of the Saco River Access Committee was held recently. The town will be putting in a different type of fence for the turnaround this year. Mr. Weather explained that the new fence would allow for the passing of canoes, etc, over and under the fence. Ms. Lyman questioned if this was a temporary or permanent fence. Mr. Weathers advised it is a temporary fence.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Conservation Commission would be held on May 8, 2013.

ADJOURN

At 7:37 pm, **Ms. Kearney moved, seconded by Ms. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hallowell
Recording Secretary