

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**September 13, 2006**

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, Phil Haynes, and Alternate, Conrad Briggs. Also present was Forester, Don Johnson.

The Chair appointed Mr. Briggs as a full voting member.

**Approval of Minutes (7/12/06): Motion by Mr. Adair, second by Mr. Weathers, that the Minutes of the Aug. 9th meeting be approved as written. Carried by unanimous vote.**

**Public Comment:** None.

**Foresters Report:** Don Johnson provided a follow up on the white pine seed year in Whitaker Woods, reporting he found no seed on the flats, but when starting to climb, the trees are loaded with cones and seed. He is still uncertain as to what exactly to do – they are not getting enough sun, but he does not want to open up the stand if there is not adequate seed. He noted the seed is dropping now so he will go back to take another look. He said he has talked with the owner of Moose Mt. Logging who will be available by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. We can still get the same result even if we wait until spring before growing season starts. He will keep the Commission informed.

Mr. Johnson looked at the proposed trail work at the Whitaker Homesite - there is some corduroy on the lower part of Lucy Traverse that needs to be removed and stone put in there. There is about 500' of crown coming down Whitaker Lane where we really need to get more fill in. He went all the way out across the power lines and thinks he can get some decent fill from a knoll there. He acknowledged it is a gamble.

Mr. Johnson's crew cut out the borrow pit side (just brush); pruned those trees that were low enough to interfere with the truck body when up. On Gradual Trail there was a pine and some oaks, small hemlock, which they cut out, did some clearing, and it is now basically ready for the machinery to come in and pull some stumps, etc. As regards the budget on this, Mr. Johnson feels he can get this work done for \$5,000 or possibly less. Mr. Pinkham stated that \$4500 was budgeted for the trail work and \$1000 to stabilize Armstrong Alley.

Scheduling – Mr. Johnson noted we had such a wet spring he could not get all the work done – it has put him behind so he will not be able to get back into Whitaker Woods for 5 or 6 weeks. Mr. Adair said does not feel there is any rush to get the work done except for winter. He noted also the corduroy section referred to is actually on Wellinghurst.

Shedd Woods – Now that the State has been cleaning it up, Mr. Pinkham expressed he would rather have Mr. Johnson seed it with Conservation Mix rather than use the rye grass seed the construction crew uses. They did not yet get the frontage on Rt. 16 done,

but did get that section in the back and are looking now at how to aesthetically reclaim that and not park vehicles in there. Photos were provided showing an area which will be hot-topped; all the trees are gone that defined the margin of what was forest and what was right of way. It is about 75' long by 25' wide. Mr. Johnson suggested putting in some 8x8 granite fence posts, 7' long, at a cost of about \$200 each. [Mr. Haynes described a fence he had occasion to help with recently and will inquire as to how much those granite posts cost.] Mr. Johnson suggested 7' to 8' spacing with steel that looks like wrought iron fashioned in a "U" with 2x8s driven in to make a fence, leaving a place to walk in. He noted where the curb stops people drive right in, he does not know whether we want to continue the same thing there.

Mr. Johnson suggested planting some trees there and is now looking to find 3' to 6' hardwoods. He would place oak toward the front with sugar maples back further. Mr. Briggs offered to provide some from his property if Mr. Johnson's crew will come in and dig them out. Mr. Weathers suggested/questioned whether he plans on using any evergreens since they grow faster.

Mr. Johnson explained he is trying to keep people from parking their cars in there, the grass will die and water will collect. Mr. Weathers felt it would be expensive. Mr. Haynes felt it would encourage people to realize it is a park and should be tasteful, noting we are already putting a lot of money into other things in this town. Mr. Pinkham said it is one of the highest traffic tree farms in the area.

Mr. Pinkham noted that Don Lyford's interpretation of the \$30,000 that the State paid the town is that a part of that money could be used for the repair and rehabilitation of that site. They paid us for the depreciation value. Earl Sires will be looking at how to get the \$30,000 in place for its intended use. Mr. Weathers reminded the Commission that whatever we come up with for a proposed budget has to go back before the Budget Committee. Mr. Johnson will try to come up with a price.

Mr. Adair questioned whether this will eliminate the parking we had there before the road was reconstructed. Mr. Weathers said part of it will be determined by what the right of way is. Mr. Adair said his concern with putting posts in is the snow plows; we want to leave enough space that a few cars could pull completely off the pavement and park on the shoulder. Mr. Pinkham stated that was the intention, historically, it is what it was intended for. Mr. Johnson said he feels there is ample space. Mr. Pinkham requested a rough sketch of where things would go and the cost.

Mr. Weathers pointed out something will need to be done on the southern entrance because the vehicles can drive out there. Mr. Johnson suggested putting in some softwoods as a screen. Mr. Adair suggested putting rocks in there so people cannot drive between the curb and the signs. Mr. Weathers will talk to the State about getting a boulder moved in there.

Treasurer's Report – None.

Selectmen's Report: Mr. Weathers said he thought we had a done deal on the Schiavi property, but that does not appear now to be the case. He noted we had a plan showing

163 acres, Schiavi is proposing to take out 15 acres. Mr. Weathers had thought we had a deal as of yesterday for \$300,000 - Schiavi would get credit for the timber already cut and not cut any more; the following year he would make a donation to the town for the timber rights that he did not exercise; now the State does not want to pay the whole \$300,000. It was Mr. Johnson's opinion that the portion that Schiavi wants to take out would not be a great loss. Mr. Weiss, from NHDOT, says they cannot come up with the \$300,000 because Schiavi has taken 15 acres out of it. Mr. Adair said Mr. Weiss says that taking those 15 acres out does very little to the value. Mr. Sires told him the appraisal came in at \$250,000. It is Mr. Adair's opinion that \$25,000 is little enough to secure 150 acres. Mr. Pinkham stated Mr. Weiss made it clear that it was discussed and agreed to at the State level. Mr. Weathers recommends if we have to come up with an additional \$25,000 that we do that, but he does not understand why the change of heart. Mr. Briggs suggested there should be a specific spokesman for the town. Mr. Sires has now turned it over to Mr. Pinkham. Mr. Weathers noted that Schiavi is not taking the timber now so it is still a good deal.

Mr. Briggs questioned whether the Board of Selectmen will go along with the Commission using another \$25,000 to make the deal. Mr. Weathers said he could not see why not, noting that yesterday they were going to check with Town Counsel to see if some of the land acquisition money could be used because of certain safety issues as soon as we take over ownership (some structures that need stabilizing). The Commission would have to request permission from the Selectmen to use the \$25,000. Mr. Haynes suggested posting it would take care of a good part of the liability. Mr. Briggs felt NHMA should be able to tell us what needs to be done.

Wetlands – Whitaker permit application – [formerly the Fowle property] - It was noted that the developer did not get a permit to replace an existing culvert – it is an after-the-fact application.

Mr. Weathers reported that Roger Giese, 660 Pequawket Drive, is doing beach improvement and a retaining wall. It will be considered a minor project. The total area is 44' long, requiring about 10 cu yds. of fill, most of which is above the existing water level.

Dolloff Pond Village, File #01384 – Mr. Weathers reported the Kennett Company/Conway-Dahl site has submitted an application. The proposed conservation easement area needs to be located on the master plan, metes and bounds need to be delineated, and information from the Corps of Engineers for a vernal pool is needed. The State is holding it up until they get those things addressed.

Mr. Pinkham noted we have not had another review of the criteria for selecting conservation land easements and have to get back to that.

Mr. Pinkham reported he had a request by Steve Swenson to use Whitaker Woods for the Bike for Books tour on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> and the KHS Mt. Bike race is scheduled for Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Linda Pedula is taking a program for a tree stewardship and would like to talk to someone from the Commission. Mr. Adair volunteered to make the contact.

Mr. Pinkham reported the Board of Selectmen has agreed we could give \$10,000 to the Saco Valley Land Trust. Mr. Adair discussed this with Mr. Sires who does not believe we have to go before the Planning Board. Mr. Weathers noted when that presentation was being made it might have been a harder sell if it did not show that it was protecting what could be two house lots on that land. He questioned if our land is already protected because of the 100 year floodplain ordinance, why there is a need for a floodplain easement. He noted there cannot be any permanent structures there. Mr. Pinkham noted that the floodplain ordinance can be altered. Mr. Weathers said he would prefer to see money go toward easements than buying more land.

It was Mr. Briggs' opinion that something may be happening with the Hussey land as regards easements and suggested someone talk with Justin Hussey.

Mr. Haynes reported on his meeting today with the Village Preservation group regarding Schouler Park, discussing electrical wires that are hanging down, cleaning up, putting in some water. It was suggested also that the ice rink be moved to the infield which would eliminate killing the grass. They are talking about sodding the whole field from Village Preservation funds.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next regular meeting will be held on October 11th at 6:30 p.m.

**Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Mr. Haynes and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier  
Recording Secretary