

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
October 11, 2006**

A meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:00 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 in attendance were Town Manager, Earl Sires, Mr. Sires Sr., Selectman Karen Umberger, and Larry Garland.

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

**Approval of Minutes (9/13/06): Motion by Mr. Haynes, second by Mr. Adair, that the Minutes of the Sept. 13th meeting be approved as written. Carried by unanimous vote.**

**Public Hearing: Funding of USVLT/Kennett Conservation Easement and Acquisition with NHDOT of Redstone Properties Mitigation Site -** At 6:05 p.m. the Chair opened the Public Hearing on funding for acquisition of land according to the provisions of RSA 36-A:5, reading aloud the proposal for use of Conservation Land Account funds as follows:

1. To expend \$20,000 for the acquisition of Recreation Mitigation Land in Redstone, Town of Conway (Map 245, Parcel 29). The proposed acquisition will also be funded by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. This parcel will be used as Recreation Mitigation Land as related to future impacts on Whitaker Woods property by the proposed Conway By Pass.
2. To contribute \$10,000 to the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust to support the acquisition of a conservation easement on property located along the West Side Road in Conway, New Hampshire (Map 250, Parcels 162 and 163).

The Chair invited public comment. Ms. Umberger questioned the acreage involved in the conservation easement. Mr. Adair reported it to be 61.94 acres on the east side of West Side Road to the Saco River. A map was provided.

Ms. Umberger questioned total amount in the Conservation Fund for Land Acquisition. Mr. Pinkham reported it to be \$119,958.61. Ms. Umberger questioned why the conservation easement was such a narrow path through. Mr. Adair explained that is the extent of their land on the interval.

There being no further discussion, **Motion was made by Mr. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Briggs, that the Conservation Commission approve expenditure of \$20,000 for the acquisition of Recreation Mitigation Land in Redstone at Map 245, Parcel 29, as proposed. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Motion was made by Mr. Adair, seconded by Mr. Haynes, that the Conservation Commission approve a contribution to the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust to support the acquisition of a conservation easement on property located along West Side Road in Conway, NH at Map 250, Parcels 162 and 163, as proposed. Carried by unanimous vote.**

**Reports:** Mr. Haynes reported that Mr. Broomhall assures him the signs are being taken care of by Gemini Signs within the budget allocated. It is assumed they will be ready within a month.

**Treasurer's Report:** It was reported that of the total Conservation Commission appropriation (\$21,850), \$10,578.45 has been spent. The Hubbard-Davis account shows a beginning balance of \$13,848, ytd we have \$13,906. Conservation Land account total - \$119,471.85 as of 8/31/06. Conservation account has an ending balance of \$8,088 as of 8/31/06.

Mr. Pinkham made note that the Commission has the ability to carry over funds from one year to the next; however, that was not allowed last year. (He suggested that possibly the \$8,000 is what was the balance remaining before reimbursing the general fund of previous years which, by law, we are able to retain. He will check with the Finance Director.) The Conservation Current Use account showed a balance of \$380,623.79. Mr. Pinkham pointed out that in order to spend the Current Use Penalty monies we have to have permission of town meeting.

Mr. Pinkham stated there is a budget meeting on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with the Town Manager, and noted there are some outstanding issues: proposal to do some replanting to replace the trees that were torn out by Audley Construction at Shedd Woods, disposition of money from the State to rehabilitate that area, and money spent in seeding with conservation mix ourselves (since the State uses only rye). Mr. Sires is to check with the Finance Director to see what documentation came with the \$30,000 from the State. Mr. Pinkham said the only thing he has heard from Don Lyford of DOT is that we should be able to use that money because the intent was to repair the damage. Mr. Weathers cautioned if that money went back into the general fund there is no way to get that back. Mr. Pinkham suggested then we would have to appropriate out of next year's money.

It was noted that Mr. Johnson has built provisions into his budget for forest management for the Redstone acquisition - \$4600 for a Stewardship Management Plan – and has asked that it be put into next year's budget. Mr. Pinkham stated we can move money from one account to another; however, Mr. Weathers contended that we cannot, and said he feels the money should be spent for forest management and questioned where it is coming from.

Mr. Pinkham said there are also three wells and other safety issues that we have to attend to at the Schiavi property; the question Mr. Sires is asking is "Can we use the land acquisition funds to secure the property?" Mr. Weathers said if we are going to do that we do not want to include that in our proposed budget for 2007 – it would be double

dipping. Mr. Haynes contended we are only taking it out of the account because we need to pay for it, and questioned where the town stands when it comes to acquiring conservation land, noting that now we also have to deal with maintaining that land. He feels it should be in the 2007 budget.

Mr. Adair said we should not be bleeding down the land acquisition account to be securing property or creating forest management plans – it should be used for land acquisition. He feels it is better to use the Current Use account for that. Noting there are other pieces of land out there, we have talked about land on the West Side and we do not have anyone to go after that, Mr. Haynes said he does not mind using the Current Use Penalty money, but thinks we need to not get into the acquisition money. Mr. Weathers said he wants to preserve as much on West Side Road as we can; he would prefer to see the land trust companies go after it.

**Foresters Report:** Don Johnson reported on the Shedd Woods reclamation proposal offering a schematic of what he would like to do there. He explained that in the two openings that Audley Construction left he would propose a granite post fence with railings. He has called Swenson Granite Works in Concord and got a better price (they can also hang the hardware on each post so it will be ready for the railings) at \$144 each as opposed to the \$200+ per post previously priced, not including hanging the hardware. The total cost would be \$7,054 to install 18 of these posts and railings (36 pressure-treated 4x4x8), leaving them natural. For a screen he proposes fitting in 12 hemlocks in a row, 2' to 2.5' tall. Behind that he would plant 25 red oak and 25 sugar maples – a total of 62 trees for \$1240. Labor would be \$1780, equipment about \$1,000, posts \$2600. He would plant the oak closer to Rt. 16 because they are more salt tolerant.

Ms. Lyman questioned where people will park once these are up. Mr. Johnson assumed they would be parking on the shoulder which is about 12' wide. As regards the access road going in to Shedd Woods for maintenance or harvesting, Mr. Johnson said he would define a pedestrian entrance by placing two posts close together. For the maintenance access he would have two posts about 12' apart from which the railings could be removed, or if that did not work he would make it so that one post can easily be removed.

Mr. Weathers, noting Mr. Johnson was looking for more of an aesthetic look, said he had been looking to place one rock at the end of the last curbing; however, the fact that people have not been driving on it makes him question whether we still need to put a rock there, and if we are going to have that tree screen, it may be a hard sell to put the posts along the road. Mr. Haynes, noting that approximately \$225,000 was invested in the Watson-Davis park next to Whitaker Homesite, pointed out we are continually trying to promote aesthetic areas and need to keep that in mind, that what Mr. Johnson proposes is worth the \$7,000; we want to keep people from driving in there. Mr. Weathers stated the curb stops at the southern entrance, they are not going to drive up over that curb to get in there. Mr. Briggs said he looks at it as being part of the \$30,000 the State gave to the town – it is what they gave us the money for.

Ms. Lyman questioned whether Mr. Johnson would consider using larger trees. He stated one consideration is the price, also the logistics of getting the tree in the ground (larger trees are more difficult), also there is a poorer survival rate the larger the tree. He assured her the trees chosen will grow very quickly.

**Budget Status Report:** Mr. Johnson said he has put together an analysis of where we are at in terms of our finances - we have done all the projects we had designated for the year. He said if we looked at all those items we would still be under on our expenses by about \$2400; however, there were three new items added: a new gate at the Kearsarge Road entrance to Whitaker Woods, seeding at Shedd Woods where construction took place, and consulting time on the Schiavi lot. That added up to about \$700 over what we initially planned for forestry expenditures for the year. Mr. Pinkham noted the total figure is \$13,896.46; \$17,500 was budgeted for Mr. Johnson's work.

**Budget 2007:** Mr. Johnson provided a list of work to be done: Whitaker Woods – lime, fertilize, seed, mulch, etc. - \$2,000; Whitaker Woods – reestablish property line - \$3,000; mow the road and trail under the power lines and mow the vista - \$300; Whitaker Homesite – lime, fertilize, seed, mulch - \$150; Shedd Woods reclamation project - \$7,054; Schiavi lot – create stewardship management plan - \$4625; consulting - \$1500. Grand Total - \$18,629. Mr. Weathers questioned Hurricane Mt. Rd. maintenance. Mr. Johnson said no.

Mr. Pinkham will draft a budget for a meeting with Mr. Sires on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. He noted questions that will need answering: Can the forest management plan come out of our land acquisition account? Funds for Shedd Woods work from the State versus our budget?

Mr. Johnson reported he has resubmitted the Town of Conway for Tree Farmer of the Year for the State of NH and will keep trying, noting it would be wonderful publicity for the town, that the town has done a fantastic job with their forest.

Mr. Johnson said he received a call from Moose Mt. Logging letting him know they will be available fairly soon, so he will have to hike in to Whitaker Woods again, check the seed drop situation, and decide how to go. He noted that the hardwood market now is not good, pine and hemlock market are both O.K. He will let the Commission know when he decides what's best for the town.

**Selectmen's Report:** Mr. Weathers reported on wetlands applications: Kennett Co. had a gravel pit permit and plan in East Conway across from the transfer station, and are in the process of getting an updated permit because they have expanded the acreage. There will be a change of ownership on part of that land. Also the State is asking for additional information on the subdivision request at Dolloff Pond Village. He noted Phase II is in progress.

Mr. Weathers has received acknowledgement from the State that they received the permit for the Paul Whitaker culvert installation on Stark Road.

There has been a request from Mt. Cranmore Condominium Association for a relocation of 45 linear feet for a man-made intermittent stream - they wanted to move the ditch about 5' – it is a foot path to get to Mt. Cranmore. Mr. Weathers questions where the sediment under it is coming from and how they are sizing the ditch.

**Whitaker Trail Plan:** It was reported that Mr. Johnson is planning to do work on Whitaker Trail this fall.

**2005-2006 Budget:** Mr. Pinkham reported we are at 47% to 48% of the budget.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next regular meeting will be held on November 8th at 6:30 p.m.

**Motion was made by Mr. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Weathers and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier  
Recording Secretary