

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 12, 2008**

A meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:31 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, NH. Present were: Paul Pinkham, David Weathers, Rob Adair, Dan Lucy, Chuck Broomhall, Carol Lyman, and Alternates, Connie Briggs and Linda Kearney. Also present was Forester, Don Johnson.

The Chair appointed Ms. Kearney and Mr. Briggs as full voting members.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 2/13/08 – Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Mr. Lucy and carried by unanimous vote, that the Minutes of the Feb. 13th meeting be approved as presented.

Forester's Report: Mr. Johnson stated he will first be looking at the update of the Forest Management Plan for Whitaker Woods and Whitaker Homesite. He suggested he might contact Larry Garland to look at his map files in order to have an accurate depiction of where the trails are, noting that with GIS technology they will be able to generate all manner of maps such as trail maps, priority maps, etc.

Mr. Johnson noted until the snow gets down he cannot get onto many of the other practices. Reconnaissance and Recommendation report: He noted that this has to do with what's growing now and we cannot see that. Brush sawing and mowing: We have to wait until the snow subsides. Regarding trail work, high on the priority list is work on the section of trail from the Lucy Traverse to the Whitaker Trail. Mr. Johnson stated if he can get a go ahead for a figure to work with, he could get some of the clearing started before snow is gone. He anticipates a fairly busy season, has a lot of things going on, but will make time for the town's projects. He noted there is a lot of wood in there which we need to get out somehow, possibly taking a few small loads out with a dump truck after ski season ends. He said he would not do any of it until he gets his work agreement to Earl Sires and gets it signed. Mr. Pinkham said if we are going to do any significant clearing we need to be prepared to deal with the public.

Mr. Adair felt the work proposed should wait until it dries out some so as not to "muck up" the existing trails. Mr. Johnson stated he might do some of the felling and leave it there until it dries out some, but said he understands what Mr. Adair is saying.

Mr. Broomhall expressed to Mr. Johnson that the job he did last year on the upper part of Wellinghurst to the top of the Vista and part of the Quarry Trail was fantastic, there are a lot of skiers in there every day. Mr. Adair suggested someone may go out and flag the center line, and get Cort Hansen out there to make sure everyone is happy.

Jeff Lougee was not present to provide a report and Mr. Pinkham has had no word from him. He said there is continued interest on inventorying conservation land and the Saco.

Selectmen's Report: Mr. Weathers reported the Town received a check from the State in excess of \$300,000 for the land they are taking from Pudding Pond for the middle section of the bypass, for the western and northern section of Pudding Pond for the bridge. Mr. Briggs questioned what the money is for. Mr. Weathers stated it is for the bypass, if and when they ever build it. He noted they have taken the northern and middle section off the ten year plan and intend to relook at that as to whether it is actually needed. Ms. Lyman questioned since it was town land and the State now owns it, if that section of the bypass does not happen, what will happen to that land? Mr. Weathers stated the original owners have to be give right of first refusal.

Other Business: Acquisition Criteria/USVLT relationship – Mr. Adair reported he has called Mr. Sires to set up an appointment to get together with the Land Trust and figure out a plan, but has not heard back. Mr. Pinkham noted Mr. Sires has expressed an interest in developing an appropriate document.

Whitaker Trail Plan/work progress – Mr. Broomhall questioned money available for Whitaker Trails and was told it is \$5,000.

Wetland Applications – Mr. Weathers reported there are no new applications. He has received acknowledgement from the State of receipt of the paperwork from the Fadden/Whitaker project. They will probably be requesting more information.

Mr. Weathers has received no further information on the Jones application (south side of Hurricane Mt. Rd. for a barn with a crossing about 1700' long near Kearsarge trail head). He sent a letter on behalf of the town looking for that information, and a letter to DES in the hope they would follow up, but has heard nothing back.

Mr. Weathers questioned whether there has been anything further on the site along the Swift River for the Conway Scenic Railroad. Mr. Pinkham stated they were looking for grant money, which may be holding them up. Mr. Weathers noted the State requested they come up with a study – he expressed doubts about it, noting it will hinge on the four abutters.

Mr. Pinkham said he has heard nothing about the KHS ski jump. Mr. Broomhall said the school is looking at property they now lease from the Kennett Company; it will be reduced three to five acres, and will be donated to the school, but have to wait for the snow to go and get out there and survey it.

Next Meeting Date: April 9, 2008.

Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Kearney and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary