

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 8, 2008**

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, Carol Lyman, Rob Adair, Dan Lucy, Connie Briggs, and Alternate, Linda Kearney. Forester, Don Johnson, was also present. Chuck Broomhall joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The Chair appointed Ms. Kearney as a full voting member.

1. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 9/10//08 – Mr. Weathers noted the following correction: Pg. 4, h., Wetlands Applications: “*Mr. Weathers said it was based on a soil survey – the soil survey units are mapped down to 3 acres which is useless for wetland delineation.*” Mr. Adair offered the following correction: Pg. 3, 4th para., “*Mr. Adair said the recreational use statute applies because we do not charge a fee.*” **Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Mr. Adair and carried by unanimous vote, that the Minutes of the Sept. 10th meeting be approved as corrected.**

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports:

a. Don Johnson provided copies of proposed 2009 forestry budget totaling \$10,550. He noted that while hiking he found a good bit of white pine release work. He looked at Whitaker trail next to the vista and believes there is no need to mow all the landings every year. He said he found a group of washouts, one treacherous spot near Cranmore; also on the corner where Armstrong Alley condos are is starting to erode – seeding did not catch well there.

Mr. Johnson looked at the poison ivy situation in Shedd Woods and feels the only way to deal with it is to use Round Up, which works well. Mr. Adair requested that he also do the bottom of the trail where it comes out in the field.

Mr. Johnson provided a proposal for a timber harvest on the Common Lands East Conway Lot over the winter, including map of same. Referring to the proposed budget, Mr. Adair questioned where Compartment I and II are and was told II is the larger part of south of Hurricane Mt. Rd., Clear Cut #7 is the big, sort of flat area. He said he feels it will be a focus area to get a new stand of softwood. Mr. Johnson stated he has not had a chance to look at wildlife areas – that is probably a couple of years away. He noted Compartment I is at the upper landing off Hurricane Mt. Rd. – there have been four clear cuts in a row there, trying to get some species diversity. Mr. Briggs noted a cut being done beyond the water tank and questioned whether they are cutting right up to town land. Mr. Adair said he believes that is Cranmore land.

Mr. Johnson noted that the East Conway lot was harvested late in 2002. He would like to use the same type of cut-to-length equipment in there again for this. There are approximately 15 to 20 acres to be accessed and they will take about 50% of the overstory volume. The total lot is about 175 acres, estimated net from harvest \$7,522.40, timber tax to town \$956.40.

Mr. Johnson reported that Chris Kebler has started doing inventory for the Forest Management Plan. Mr. Johnson has timber-typed all of Whitaker Homesite using Larry Garland's map, which is very accurate and will result in a really accurate inventory. He noted he does not as yet have a new formal statement of goals and objectives; he will have a progression report on other lots and how they are going, and will be working on the timber sale. He said he has a lot of clerical work (3 years worth of filing) and will provide an updated Accomplishments list as well.

Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Briggs and carried by unanimous vote, that the Commission approve Mr. Johnson's going forward with the timber harvest proposal. Mr. Johnson will put together a work agreement and get a signature from the Town Manager.

b. Jeff Lougee could not be present. Mr. Pinkham said he was to put together a TNC budget for 2009; he has not yet heard from him so he included the usual \$3,000 in the proposed budget; however, this past year it was only \$2,000.

c. Treasurer's Report – None.

d. Selectmen's Report: Mr. Weathers reported Selectmen had a lengthy discussion on the Literacy Walk Project and in the final analysis it was tabled. He feels unless someone comes up with new information the Selectmen will probably not go along with it; he will vote the way the Commission has voted.

Mr. Weathers reported the Rules and Regulations passed, with the exception of Sec. 5 dealing with the fire permit issue. [Presently it reads: Open fires are allowed by written permit of the Conway Conservation Commission.] Mr. Weathers stated not only the CCC would approve, but it would also have to be approved by the warden or local fire Chief for that area.

4. Other Business: Ms. Lyman questioned whether the information boards that Ms. Kearney and Mr. Hansen are proposing are going to be put up before winter. Mr. Pinkham stated we have to find a volunteer from the CCC to provide copies to get posted in the little kiosks; he asked for a volunteer to get items laminated.

Referring to Rules and Regulations, Mr. Briggs noted Sec. 1. states "All people are welcome to enjoy themselves *without* charge in the conservation areas....." Mr. Pinkham said we are not including ski touring business, only CCC lands. Mr. Briggs noted it includes cross country skiing *without charge*. Mr. Adair suggested removing "without charge" and adding "*Use conservation lands responsibly.*"

Mr. Adair asked for Mr. Johnson's opinion on the location of the pump track proposed at the Sept. meeting. Mr. Johnson stated the landing is spacious and he feels there should be no problem; he feels it is perfectly safe. **Motion was made by Mr. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Lucy, to approve the site and go forward with the pump track proposal. Motion carried with seven votes in the affirmative and Mr. Weathers abstaining "as he had not had an opportunity to view it."** Mr. Pinkham said if we discover there is a need for inspection after it is constructed we will see that it is done. Mr. Weathers said he feels Selectmen should be made aware of it. Mr. Adair will follow up on it with the Town Manager. Mr. Adair requested permission to bring his tractor in to the pump track site. **Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Briggs, that the Mt. Bike group be allowed to bring in its equipment to construct the pump track. Carried by unanimous vote.**

a. 2009 Budget – Mr. Pinkham noted the budget distributed included Mr. Johnson's work. Mr. Weathers pointed out we are above last year's figure and this is not the year to do this, revenue is down. Mr. Pinkham said we have spent \$5,000 for the past several years for trail rebuilding and repair. Mr. Adair said the committee has been working on what needs to be done, Mr. Johnson works at that list until he runs out of money. Mr. Adair said the goal is to have a 5K loop that they can groom and ski on in a lean winter; a lot of volunteer work has been done in the past recent years.

Mr. Weathers referred to Mr. Johnson's prioritized listing and questioned whether he will try to accomplish it all in one year's time. It was noted there is no Whitaker Trail work included in the proposed budget – the budget would be \$20,750 if we included the \$5,000 as in previous years. Mr. Broomhall said he would not want to see nothing in there for it because it could carry through for a number years to come.

It was pointed out that the goal was to submit a lower budget this year. Ms. Kearney suggested putting in \$3,000 for Whitaker Trail work and remove items 7, 8 & 9 on Mr. Johnson's list (#7 - Compartment II – touch up/re-release soft wood regeneration in CC #2 & #7; #8 - Compartment I touch up/re-release softwood regeneration in CC #14, 15, 16 and 19; and #9 - Mow road and trail under power line and mow vista) totaling \$3,450. When Mr. Johnson works up the budget for next year he will put those three items back in. Mr. Briggs said he feels Whitaker Woods is far too valuable a piece of property for us to drop back on maintenance.

Mr. Johnson was asked for an opinion of 7, 8 & 9. He noted 7 & 8 are common lands which are well away from here, they were prioritized lower because of where they are. Mr. Weathers said he does not want to put all efforts just in Whitaker Woods and end up shortchanging ourselves. Mr. Johnson said he does not feel one year will hurt.

Mr. Johnson pointed out the budget is already \$4,000 less than 2008; however, there is nothing included for Whitaker Trail maintenance. Mr. Adair suggested cutting the TNC allocation in half and putting it toward forest management, bringing TNC to \$1500, drop

\$3450 from the forestry budget (items 7, 8 & 9). By using the TNC \$1500, the result would be taking \$1450 out of Mr. Johnson's budget.

Mr. Pinkham summarized that we want to come in at not-to-exceed last year's budget, include a reasonable amount for Whitaker and a reflection of prioritization in Mr. Johnson's budget. He will Email the members a copy of the final budget.

b. Whitaker Trail Plan/work progress – Mr. Adair said the Committee has been discussing and updating the plan.

f. Wetlands Applications – None. Mr. Weathers reported a letter of deficiency was issued to G.T. Burke & Sons for property on East Conway Road. The DES is saying from the field inspection it looks like they had filled in for both parking expansion and storage facilities, about 2100 sf of wetlands. They have to come up with a plan by Oct. 8th. The site plan is dated 2002. The town has not received a copy because an after-the-fact application is required.

Mr. Weathers reported DES is apparently conducting a survey through UNH service center, working on a State water plan, and they want us to participate in the survey; however he has not received the survey.

g. Rules and Regulations – It was noted we need to get language from Ms. Lyman, she will send it to Mr. Pinkham and he will do the alternations.

h. Easements – The following information was recently received and forwarded to Earl Sires for consideration at Town Meeting: If your Commission would like to have the ability to support land protection projects by giving money to a qualified organization (such as a land trust) without taking a property interest, your community will need to pass the following Article:

“Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I (b) to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds for contributions to qualified organizations for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property?”

5. Next Meeting – November 12, 2008.

6 Adjourn: Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Kearney and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary