

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
August 12, 2009**

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 and Charles Broomhall.

1. Approval of Minutes: 6/10/09 – Motion by Mr. Weathers, second by Mr. Broomhall, that the Minutes of the June 10th meeting be accepted as submitted. Carried by unanimous vote.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports:

a. Don Johnson – Not present. Mr. Pinkham reported that Mr. Johnson was to have gone to the Abenaki site to find out what to do about the trees there.

b. Jeff Lougee – Not present.

c. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Lyman could not be present, but provided a report which was distributed to all members. It was reported also that Ms. Lyman forwarded the Rules and Regulations to Cort Hansen who will have them laminated and posted.

d. Selectmen's Report – Mr. Weathers reported that Mr. Sires has sent out the MOU for the treatment of the invasive plants on town property adjacent to the former Dahl property on Rt. 16. Mr. Pinkham noted that NH Audubon Society response to that was "Thanks." Two requests are being forwarded to the Public Works Director – treating species they want to attack, and request that the time period be made longer so they would be able to do follow up. In the Town Manager's absence, Mr. DegliAngeli has been asked to put it in writing, as we have agreed.

e. Member Roundtable – Mr. Broomhall reported that Rob Adair, Nat Lucy, Don Johnson, Cort Hansen, and Chuck Broomhall took a trip to review the Whitaker Trails plan.

Mr. Adair stated the Nordic group continues to be interested in a 5k loop. He noted there are a couple of proposed sections through new areas. Work this year will focus on problem areas. They have decided to reroute a section near the end of the power line, fixing the wet spot. Also there had been some discussion about the power lines growing up, and this would be coordinated with NHEC.

Mr. Broomhall stated Mr. Johnson provided some good suggestions. It was the group's opinion that Mr. Johnson has enough information to take care of these items in this year's budget. Mr. Adair said it was a productive meeting, a good mix of people, they got a lot done. Mr. Broomhall said we know what we have for funds; Mr. Johnson will let us know

when he is out of money. Mr. Pinkham commented the principal use is a forest, recreation comes second to that.

Mr. Pinkham stated we may also have some work to do on the Abenaki site, the NH Div. of Historic Resources brought archeologists to look at the site; however, they have no money for this, nor do we. He stated we will look for grants or donations to re-stabilize the buildings that are there. The Abenaki would like to address the gift shop so the heirs, when they come, will have a place to stay. The State would like to see it developed into a cultural resource. Mr. Pinkham said we would at least have to secure the place, from a tree perspective – the trees are pushing the buildings off to the side. It was noted Abenaki is responsible for the maintenance of the buildings, but they do not do it.

Mr. Weathers pointed out if the town is aware of the danger and takes no action, we would be liable. Mr. Pinkham acknowledged we have to do some “make-safe” and stability things there. Mr. Weathers commented if we do not come up with funding we may have to put a hold on it and come up with something for next year’s Town Meeting - we should not have to deplete our account in order to do this. He agreed, however, we have to make it safe.

Mr. Adair reported a trail maintenance day was held for Red Tail Trail on Aug. 1st to which about 23 people responded, working for about four hours. He said it is in amazingly good condition and is a very popular trail - it is a work in progress. He noted also the Pump Track is going well, next year people would like to expand the top portion that is on the flat.

4. Other Business:

a. Walker Pond - Mr. Pinkham said we need to get a group together in the fall to do some work at Walker’s Pond and the Commission needs a volunteer to put something together for what is needed to be done there. Mr. Adair suggested Karla Allen be contacted to see if she would like to help put a plan together of what needs to be done.

b. Abenaki Land – see Item 3, e, above.

c. Street Light Review Committee – Mr. Pinkham volunteered to sit on that committee which is dealing with North-South Road and Rt. 16 lighting system.

Wetlands Applications – Mr. Weathers reported an after-the-fact Dredge & Fill Application has been received from Dan Bacon at 18 Charles Rd. in Center Conway for fill that was placed around his home. Mr. Bacon has filled an extensive area of hydric soil, his claim being that it is grandfathered; there is a 10” culvert going out of the catch basin. Mr. Bacon said he has attempted to get the State to lower the existing ditch, stating a lot of the water is standing water because it backs up in the ditch, but stated the State will not do anything. He contends that because the State will not do anything with the drainage, it is not his responsibility. He is working with the restoration area only for planting of high bush blueberries and blue iris. There is 3500 sq. ft. of impact.

Rules and Regulations:

Shotgun Hunting - Mr. Weathers questioned why the Commission passed the regulation that there will be no shotgun deer hunting in all areas that are owned by the town. Mr. Pinkham explained that came from discussion many years ago with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Weathers pointed out a shotgun does not carry nearly the distance a rifle would. Mr. Adair suggested that possibly someone was concerned a shotgun is not powerful enough to take the deer down.

Mining and Excavation Prohibited – Mr. Adair pointed out mining and excavation are very active in there, there is a deep hole which is full of water. Mr. Pinkham said it is impossible to govern out there, but having this rule at least would cover us. It was agreed the Rules and Regulations need to be posted immediately. Ms. Lyman will be asked to have postings made by The Nature Conservancy at both Pudding Pond and Black Cap sites.

5. Next Meeting – September 9, 2009.

6. Adjourn: Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Mr. Adair and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary