

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
November 10, 2010**

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, Dan Lucy, Carol Lyman and Linda Kearney. Also present was Forester, Don Johnson.

**1. Approval of Minutes: 9/8/10 & 10/13/10** – (9/8/10) - Ms. Kearney made note of the following corrections: Pg. 2, item d., 2<sup>nd</sup> para. should begin He reported NHDOT has made a presentation.....7<sup>th</sup> line, ...have discussed including something in this year's budget for hiring the work to be done. Pg. 3, Lucy Brook, reference to doing some banking stabilization should read bank stabilization. (10/13/10) – Mr. Weathers made note that item a, 2<sup>nd</sup> para. should begin Mr. Weathers questioned whether we are relocating it for safety and/or erosion. Last sentence of para. should read – we need to make it groomable in poor snow conditions. **Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Weathers and carried by unanimous vote, that the Minutes of Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> be approved as corrected.**

**2. Public Comment:** None.

**3. Reports:**

**a.** Don Johnson reported he has been working on trail building for a new section at the Vista Trail over to the Armstrong Trail which, he noted, is a really good addition. He said they will be closing some trails that are not suitable for anything. They have not been in there since last Friday, but had it fairly well grubbed out and found good soil conditions. He noted in another section there was a kink that needed to be fixed and they will ease the corner by cutting a few trees and pulling some stumps. Mr. Johnson pointed out they will not be able to have effective seeding this time of year and suggests putting it off until spring.

On another note, Mr. Johnson said during a visit to Town Hall he discovered that the tax map shows the State owns a strip going through Whitaker Woods due to the bypass, his concern being crossing State land. It parallels the utility lines the entire way. Mr. Weathers noted that was tying in the piece where we were discussing whether we wanted a tunnel or a bridge. It was his opinion that long range it does not look like anything is going to happen there. Mr. Johnson was advised not to be too concerned about the State owned property.

Mr. Johnson reported by the middle of next week he will have the trail work done; everything else they were to do is pretty much on schedule. Mr. Pinkham suggested if they are not going to do the stabilization of that trail, the money that would have been spent on that can be encumbered for that work to be done in the spring. He asked Mr. Johnson to advise on the need to encumber funds or defer to the 2011 expense year.

Mr. Weathers stated if cutting timber and receiving revenue, it will go in as revenue received and is not going to go back into this year's operating budget to use somewhere else. Mr. Pinkham noted that timber sale revenue goes into the Conservation Account which we get

money for each year. Mr. Johnson explained the cutting of the trees, yarding them out and trucking is basically paid for by that revenue – not the stumping or the grading. He said the wood on the stump is worth zero. Mr. Weathers said he does not want someone to say “you took timber sale money and put it back into the land.” Mr. Johnson stated the revenue was all in equipment and labor - it is how we have always done it. Mr. Lucy said he would feel comfortable leaving it that way – it is not as though it was a forest management situation – they had trees in the way and had to get rid of them. It was determined that only 9 or 10 trees were effected. Mr. Weathers said if the revenue for the trees is offset by the labor it is O.K.

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Mr. Weathers noted with regard to the work that Nat Lucy and Cort Hansen wanted to do in Whitaker Woods, Mr. Sires has stated they are covered by our insurance and are allowed to use their equipment in there; however, the equipment is not covered. Mr. Adair reported Mr. Hansen had a work day in there last Sat. and will be in there all day Thursday taking care of the brush, and Mr. Lucy will go in and ease the corners.

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Mr. Pinkham distributed copies of Inventory of Town-owned land explaining that the CCC is charged with determining those parcels which we want to address for conservation easements. He suggested that the members take the list home for review and get back to him with their suggestions. The town attorney will put the easements together. Mr. Pinkham pointed out that things like Abenaki, Cathedral Pines, and Hubbard-Davis are already protected. We have the dollars to do it and agreement from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Weathers stated it was brought up that we had the money in the Conservation Land Acquisition Account and all concur easements would be preferable and would be better use of the money.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Ms. Lyman will provide a report for January including details on the Conservation Account.

**Selectmen’s Report:** Mr. Weathers made note that many positive comments with regard to the cutting of the trees at the scenic overlook north of the former Elks Club have been received.

Mr. Weathers said final approval from DOT to do the work north of the overlook abutting the town’s eleven acre parcel to replace a culvert and do work on the riprap has been granted. The project was designed by NHDOT.

#### **4. Other Business:**

**a. Budget** – Mr. Pinkham stated we are looking for \$17,250 which is down considerably from our \$20,000 budget of several years ago. Making reference to the Minutes of the Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Weathers suggested the paragraph explaining the budget on Pg. 1 be clarified as follows: Total budget for CCC is proposed at \$17,250, of which Forest and Wetlands Management comprises \$14,550 and is a component of the overall budget in that amount.

**b. Land Use Study** – Mr. Pinkham said he looked at the Environmental Impact Statement and found nothing on the land use study.

**c. Whitaker Trail Plan** – See Pg. 1.

**d. Conway Overlook** – Comment was made that it looks good, but may need a couple more trees taken out.

Ms. Lyman questioned whether there has been any consideration for surveying the boundary at the upper end of Whitaker Woods. Mr. Pinkham stated we have not budgeted for it; he agreed it should be done and is on the list of things to do, but we have to have a “fatter” budget before doing it.

**e. Abenaki Site** – It was reported that a grant has been received from the Connie Davis Watson Foundation to reroof some buildings and stabilize the site, preserving it in the existing condition as opposed to restoration. It is on the National Historic Register.

**h. Rules and Regulations Posting** – This has not been done as yet, but all agreed those responsible have been busy doing other work.

**5. Next Meeting** – It was agreed it would not be necessary to meet in December. The next meeting will be held on January 12, 2011.

**6. Adjourn: Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Lyman and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gail T. Currier  
Recording Secretary