

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 11, 2011**

A meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, NH. Members present were: Paul Pinkham, David Weathers, Rob Adair, Carol Lyman, Karla Allan, and Linda Kearney. Also present were Wink Lees representing TNC, and Dick Fortin of Tin Mountain Conservation.

1. Approval of Minutes: 4/13/11 – Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Adair and carried by unanimous vote, that the Minutes of the April 13th meeting be approved as circulated.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports:

Tin Mountain Conservation Report - Dick Fortin reported on the brook trout habitat activities of last summer at Whitelaw Brook and Mason Brook. A full report will be made and copies made available for the Commission.

Mr. Fortin noted that this year they are applying for an additional 1000' on both of those brooks and will add two more brooks to the project. (see Mr. Weathers' Wetland Applications report.)

The Nature Conservancy Report - Wink Lees reported it is the time of year to go through the Memorandum of Understanding which they will send out to us after review. He noted there are no substantial changes; last year it was \$2,000, no change this year. It will again cover trail maintenance and brochures for kiosks (which should be out within the next two weeks). Mr. Lees noted members of the Student Conservation Association will be here in August for twenty days, focusing on the Black Cap Connector Trail. TNC has received \$500 in matching funds; he suggested that above and beyond the \$2,000 for the MOU, \$300 from the CCC would meet their match. He said the intent, in addition to working on Black Cap Connector, is to continue on down to Pudding Pond – they have been doing a temporary reroute, looking at trying to make that reroute where bog bridge work needs to be performed – there has been pretty good beaver activity there affecting water level and the bog bridges.

Mr. Lees noted on the Mason Brook Trail there has been some bad erosion over the last several years (Mr. Adair noted it has actually been decades rather than years), and they are looking into getting some help from the snowmobile club. Mr. Lees will also be meeting with Mr. Adair for suggestions the Mountain Bike club might have. Ms. Allan suggested he also contact Roger Garland.

Mr. Lees stated they plan to freshen up the kiosks this year. Ms. Kearney noting his reference to returning to the old format for the brochures, questioned whether the intent is to

make them all similar to those used in other places. Mr. Lees answered they will, they are going back to the old format for most all of the preserves.

a. Don Johnson – Mr. Johnson could not be present. Mr. Pinkham reported a work agreement has been signed with him. He also has an work agreement to restore wildlife openings on common lands. The work is to be done between now and the end of June. It is anticipated a grant will be received from Fish & Game of about \$1,000. Mr. Pinkham reported that Mr. Johnson is reviewing work that may be planed for Pudding Pond.

b. Wink Lees – See above.

c. Treasurer's Report – An updated Treasurer's Report was provided by Ms. Lyman.

d. Selectmen's Report - None.

e. Member Roundtable – Mr. Adair reported that at the Smith-Eastman Canoe Launch the CCC built a bridge over the little tributary stream there in 2002. Some trees have fallen in and are pushing in the side of the banking. He is concerned if it continues, it will isolate that bridge and eventually take it out. He questioned whether that is something the town would be interested in helping with. Mr. Weathers stated the town is about to start the Tasker Hill Road project which will tie up the whole crew for 6 to 8 weeks. Mr. Adair said he would like to have them pull the trees out of the way so they are not pushing in the side, noting during flood stage it gets backwater and when that drains out the velocity is chewing up the bank. Mr. Pinkham said if we do not have the money budgeted it does not mean the work should not get done; it should be done so as not to lose the bridge. He felt if the town cannot do it the CCC should expend some funds, eliminating some less critical work to get it done.

Mr. Weathers questioned whether it needs a permit. Ms. Allan pointed out they would be taking something out, not putting something in. Mr. Weathers said according to DES if it is anything more than hand work then a permit is required. He stated he will take a look at it. Mr. Pinkham suggested checking to see if the town can do something about it; if all else fails look at the CCC budget to see what can be done.

4. Other Business:

a. Conservation Easements – Mr. Pinkham stated some in-house things have been done, but we still have to help the Town Manager identify the legal entity.

Mr. Pinkham requested the help of a volunteer to take on a project on Birch Hill to replace a “no dumping” sign. He stated a resident there is complaining because the sign has been damaged. Mr. Weathers said the sign was put there many years ago, now people are using it for target shooting. He will look into getting another sign.

b. Members and reappointments – Mr. Pinkham noted that Carol Lyman and Rob Adair have agreed to accept reappointment; Mr. Broomhall was not reappointed.

We will need to advertise for one full voting member and an alternate. Mr. Pinkham will request that Karen Hallowell place an ad in the Daily Sun. **Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Ms. Allan, that the CCC request the Board of Selectmen to reappoint Carol Lyman and Rob Adair to the Conservation Commission as full voting members. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Election of Officers: Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Lyman, that the Commission reappoint Paul Pinkham as Chairman, Rob Adair as Vice Chair and Carol Lyman as Treasurer. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Mr. Pinkham agreed to serve for just one more year..

c. Whitaker Trail Plan/work progress – Mr. Adair has sent an email to Cort Hansen and Nat Lucy for their input and, hopefully, will have something to report next month. Mr. Pinkham noted nothing is scheduled presently, but Don Johnson has asked to get on it soon.

d. Wetlands Applications – Mr. Weathers reported there are three applications involving restoration of 1000' each: the Sut Marshall property, Tin Mountain Conservation, and Brian Abrams site. Mr. Weathers noted the State has received a letter from the town and the CCC regarding Robert Nelson's application for a driveway off Old Goshen Rd. Additional information has been requested.

Mr. Pinkham questioned bank restoration off Justamere Road. Mr. Weathers said there has been no response yet from DES – it is a major project, no action taken. He offered to visit the site to see what is taking place.

5. Next Meeting – June 8, 2011.

6. Adjourn: Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Weathers and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail T. Currier
Recording Secretary