

MINUTES OF MEETING  
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
June 8, 2011

A meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, New Hampshire with the following present: Chair, Paul Pinkham; Rob Adair; Carol Lyman, Linda Kearney, David Weathers (Selectmen's Representative), and Karen Hallowell, Recording Secretary. Also present was Don Johnson of Forest Land Improvements and Larry Huemmler who has expressed interest in serving on the Conservation Commission.

Commission members, Dan Lucy and Karla Allan, were not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MAY 11, 2011

The Commission considered the minutes of May 11, 2011. Ms. Kearney offered the following two amendments to the minutes. 1<sup>st</sup> page, second to the last paragraph, last sentence, the following language should be added "...of Mountain Meadow Riders Ski Club." The last sentence would then read "Ms. Allan suggested he also contact Roger Garland of Mountain Meadow Riders Ski Club." Ms. Allen next advised that on page 2, second paragraph, second sentence, the word an should be changed to a. **Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Mr. Kearney, to accept the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Huemmler advised that he responded to the ad soliciting for Conservation Commission members. Mr. Huemmler stated that he is interested in serving on the Conservation Commission and reviewed a brief synopsis of his history and qualifications to the members present.

REPORTS

Don Johnson/FLI – Mr. Johnson reported on accomplishments and future plans in the works.

Mr. Johnson advised that in Whitaker Woods the white pine release was completed in a 5 acre area. This work went quicker than anticipated. He had expensed \$2,800 for this but has only billed \$1,900.

Mr. Johnson next reported completing the same process in the East Conway Common Lands. In this area he thinks they covered more than 5 acres. There was standing water in a lot of places. Mr. Johnson stated this area is coming along nicely. Mr. Johnson also advised his bill for this work was \$1,500.

Mr. Johnson next reported on Shedd Woods advising he has completed clearing work in there. There are sugar maples, etc., coming in under the white pine. The hemlock along the fence will be fine.

Mr. Johnson next reported on the Pudding Pond harvest plan. He wrote to the NHDOT office in Gilford for permission to cross the State owned corridor but he hasn't heard a thing back from them. Mr. Johnson further stated that he felt that after going into this area a couple of times he sees many people recreating in this area and thinks the timing is off for this project and it should wait until late fall/early winter –a time when fewer people are in there. He feels it is best to postpone this work at this time.

Mr. Johnson next advised that he received a call from Garland Lumber requesting to bid on the Pudding Pond lot. Mr. Johnson advised that he has worked with Moose Mountain before as well as Garland Lumber and had good luck with both. Mr. Johnson advised that he would solicit bids from Moose Mountain and Garland Lumber for the work. Mr. Pinkham stated that Commission member, Karla Allan, is an employee of Garland Lumber and this may be a conflict and that we should check with Town Manager, Earl Sires, regarding same. Mr. Weathers stated that as long as it is a documented bid we should be okay but he will also check with Earl Sires.

Mr. Johnson next reported on clearing near the Red Tail Trail wild life habitat. Clear cuts 5 and 10 have been approved by Fish and Game for a \$2,000 grant. Mr. Johnson advised that he walked the woods road and was surprised by how much had grown in and this work needs to be done with a "Brontosaurus" machine. Mr. Johnson advised that he met with John Brown who invented this machine and asked him if he can get to where he needed to go with this machine. Mr. Brown looked at the area and stated it would be close but he will have his guys bring planking to get through to the site. Mr. Johnson advised he also asked him about the bridge and if it will hold the machine and Mr. Brown advised him he thinks the machine will be okay to cross the bridge.

Mr. Johnson next advised they have 12 acres to get done and they can do a lot in three days. His concern is that the stuff really flies out of the machine and the trail goes through there. Mr. Johnson questioned how hard it would be for us to get that trail closed down for a few days. Mr. Adair advised this shouldn't be a problem. Mr. Johnson stated it seems to him the best way to do this.

Mr. Johnson next stated that he wanted to get the nod from the Conservation Commission regarding John Brown. Mr. Johnson stated that on the white pine release he came in almost \$1,000 under and if we get the \$4,000 grant we are \$500 over, but we will still be under budget. Mr. Pinkham stated this will be \$1,000 under on one project and, also, \$500 over on another and so we are still not over our total. Mr. Pinkham stated that even if this is under Budget we still have to go to the Board of Selectmen for approval to accept the grant. Mr. Weathers questioned if the Commission would like him to discuss this matter with Mr. Sires. It was agreed that Mr. Weathers should discuss the matter with Mr. Sires. Mr. Johnson reviewed this is up to \$2,000 for the grant. Mr. Weathers stated he would speak with Mr. Sires on this matter tomorrow. Mr. Pinkham requested that Mr. Johnson keep him advised as to the status. Mr. Johnson stated he will also keep Mr. Adair advised on the trails.

Wink Lees/TNC – Mr. Lees was not present and no report was given.

Carol Lyman/Treasurer's Report – Ms. Lyman advised she had no Treasurer's Report this evening.

David Weathers/Selectmen's Report – There was no Selectmen's report given by Mr. Weathers.

Member Roundtable – There was no discussion under this agenda item.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Conservation Easements – Mr. Adair reported he had discussion with Town Manager, Earl Sires, recently concerning the easement issue. Two areas discussed for easements were Pudding Pond and the Common Lands Tract. Mr. Sires inquired with the NHMA as to whether we could hold easements to own land and the response was we need a third party to hold easements. Also, the Town designated land as town forest and so there are restrictions that apply. Mr. Adair further added that Mr. Sires is also looking into –if we don't protect this can the designation get taken away.

Mr. Adair next stated he has never seen the East Conway Common Lands and feels there should probably be a field trip scheduled. Mr. Adair further reviewed that another parcel brought up

by Mr. Sires is the land adjacent to the transfer station with Saco River Frontage. Mr. Adair stated that he is also not familiar with this property. Mr. Pinkham reviewed there is also a parcel in the Artist Falls area that should be viewed. Mr. Johnson advised this is a 13 acre parcel that sits by itself. Mr. Adair stated that it is landlocked and is adjacent to a 50 acre parcel that someone was going to develop.

Mr. Johnson stated that one important thing with easements is doing titles searches, although this may be different with common land. Also, the land should be surveyed. There was next a brief discussion by the Commission concerning the issue of title searches. It was agreed they would continue to look into this to find out.

Members and reappointments – Ms. Kearney requested an updated copy of the contact list for Conservation Commission members. Mr. Pinkham advised he would ask Jean Simon to provide same.

**Mr. Adair moved, seconded by Ms. Kearney, to recommend the appointment of Larry Huemmler to the Conservation Commission.** It was reviewed the recommendation would be forward to the Board of Selectmen as they appoint. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Whitaker Trail Plan/Work Progress – There was no discussion on this agenda item.

Whitaker Video – There was no discussion on this agenda item.

Wetland Applications – Mr. Weathers advised two letters were received from the NHDES regarding not receiving information for a permit from an application from Kennett and if they don't get the information they will revoke the permit. Mr. Weathers next advised that with regard to Harold Whitaker and Tom Fadden we were supposed to get an easement and the NHDES has not received information for this yet either.

Mr. Weathers next advised that Ray Lobdell completed seeding at Cranmore by May 10, 2011 and has provided photos of the restoration work. It sounds as if they are in compliance with their permit.

#### NEXT MEETING

Mr. Pinkham advised there would not be a meeting on July 13, 2011. The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be scheduled for August.

#### ADJOURN

At 7:31 p.m., Mr. Weathers moved, seconded by Ms. Kearney, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Recording Secretary