

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
August 10, 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, Dan Lucy, Larry Huemmler, and Linda Kearney. Also present was Forester, Donald Johnson.

**1. Approval of Minutes 6/9/11: It was decided to postpone review/approval of the Minutes pending receipt of final draft.**

**2. Public Comment:** None.

**3. Reports:**

**a. Don Johnson-FLI** – Mr. Johnson stated he had postponed a planned small timber sale at Pudding Pond due to the lack of DOT bypass corridor plotting there and the public use.

Wildlife Openings on Hurricane Mt. – Mr. Johnson reported this has proved to be difficult to plan time for; he needs to decide whether there is a need to notify the public that the Red Tail Trail is in the vicinity of where they will be working. He may try to get John Brown there next week with his Brontosaurus machine. Mr. Johnson will put up the normal signs to keep people away from the work area. They are single track trails – one way in, one way out. Mr. Adair said he has email listings for notification.

Trail Rebuilding/Relocation at Whitaker Woods – Mr. Johnson reported there is \$2350 in the budget for this. Mr. Adair said he has made inquiries of some folks, has heard back from Nat Lucy who suggested smoothing out existing trails so they can be more easily groomed after a light snowfall.

Mr. Johnson reported he has a few small projects that still need to be done involving mowing and brush sawing.

**b. Nature Conservancy Report** - Wink Lees was not present.

**c. Treasurer's Report** – An updated Treasurer's Report will be provided by Ms. Lyman at the September meeting.

**d. Selectmen's Report** - Mr. Weathers noted the Gearson property, approximately 113 acres, is being offered to the town for \$100. It is located in Center Conway behind the Cobble Pond Farms gas station next to Trafford's RV, and is another access to Conway Lake. Mr. Pinkham noted a member of the Gearson family who is legal counsel for them has questioned whether the town is interested in pursuing it. He was advised to contact the Town Manager.

It was noted the owner wishes to retain access to the lots located there. Forester, Don Johnson, has been managing the property for some 20 to 30 years and thinks highly of it – there is harvesting to be done there. Mr. Lucy noted it is a nice piece of land and the road is plowed in the winter. Mr. Weathers will discuss this with Mr. Sires.

Latham Property on Justamere Road – Mr. Weathers reported an anonymous email has been received with a complaint about what is happening on the property. Mr. Weathers stated a permit application was received, reply was made that the town was not in favor of the project *as designed*. DES claims to have not received that correspondence. The person sending the email took pictures, complaining that the town and state are not doing anything about it. The email claims much work has been done, brush, etc. has been put into the river. Mr. Weathers has taken photos as well, and has sent them to the State. It was Mr. Pinkham's opinion that the CCC has done all it can do; it is our obligation to notify the State if we see a violation, and this has been done.

Recreation Land at River Road - Mr. Weathers said we laid out the site with the Recreation Dept. for the Pow Wow and had no problems there. The same will be done with the Kennel Club event. [Note was made that the dog show, by deed, has use of that property for perpetuity.] Mr. Weathers said long term use of that field will be really restrictive, there should be no vehicles in there other than for maintenance.

Mr. Weathers noted that the small parking site on the north side is not our land; however, the North Conway Water Precinct may elect to give it to the town. The Precinct does not want people going in there on the south side because of possible contamination to the well. The Saco River Committee is planning a meeting in the fall.

Abenaki Site – Mr. Pinkham questioned whether there has been any comment from the Town Manager regarding the Abenaki Site. Mr. Pinkham noted descriptions have been written for the display panels, and a piece of the totem pole has been found in someone's garage. It is Mr. Pinkham's opinion that they are working quite well in getting that ready as an historic visitation site.

#### **e. Member Roundtable –**

Fadden/Whitaker Property - Ms. Kearney questioned activity at the Fadden/Whitaker property on East Conway Road in that there had been some controversy over the land and it has just been sold. She questions whether that has ever been settled. Mr. Weathers said he was not sure.

Smith-Eastman Canoe Launch – Ms. Kearney questioned whether a little grading could be done between the dirt road and where it is paved, noting the ruts are getting horrendous. It is used as a parking area for the park. Mr. Weathers suggested she remind him later on after the highway crew has finished with their current projects, stating he cannot ask them to do anything more right now.

Status of the Recreation trail at the Smith-Eastman Site – Ms. Kearney said that trail was supposed to be rerouted, but it has kind of ended. Mr. Weathers stated it was gone over last year and again this year, and has been reflagged. They are trying to work out something with the State as to where it hits Rt. 16. He said the present owner, Ned Sullivan, does not want it to come out there. He does not know whether there is anything on record as to where that is going to come out. Mr. Adair said he thinks it was going to come out at the Evergreens subdivision. Ms. Kearney questioned what about the section going toward the high school? Mr. Adair stated that ends at the perimeter of the high school property at the retention pond. He had met with school officials to find a way to get across the swale and they suggested coming up with a design for a bridge over the swale. [Ms. Kearney left the meeting.]

**4. Other Business:**

**a. Conservation Easements** – Mr. Adair will touch base with Mr. Sires to see where we are with that.

**b. Saco River Committee** – See above.

**c. Members and reappointments** – It was noted that the Selectmen have appointed Larry Huemmler and he has been sworn in. There is still one vacancy. Mr. Huemmler expressed his pleasure at having been appointed.

**d. Whitaker Trail Plan/work progress** – Discussed above.

**e. Whitaker Video** – Mr. Johnson has expressed his feeling that this would be a good teaching opportunity.

**f. Wetlands Applications** – Mr. Weathers reported three non site specific permit applications have been applied for to restore the aquatic habitat for native brook trout.

Carl Thibodeau Property on Hobbs Street – A permit application for 6,940 sq. ft. has been made, of which 2000+ sq. ft. of impact is new - the rest is due to the fact that someone did some work in there without a permit.

**5. Next Meeting** – September 14, 2011

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary