

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May, 9, 2012**

The May 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, Carol Lyman, Rob Adair, Dave Weathers, and Linda Kearney. Mr. Lucy arrived at 6:50 p.m. Also present was Forester, Don Johnson.

1. Approval of Minutes 4/11/12 Notation was made that Mr. Weathers had been in attendance at the April meeting, but was not listed as being present. **Motion by Ms. Kearney, second by Ms. Lyman, that the Minutes of the April 11th meeting be approved as corrected. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Reports:

a. Don Johnson- Mr. Johnson reported he had put together a work agreement from the proposed budget of last fall, but had left out work to be performed at the Vista on “Bowling Alley Hill” and will correct that. In reviewing the budget he noted mowing in Whitaker Woods and trail improvements, the Abenaki site brush work (noting the site looks great); Shedd Woods includes work on the vista and three fence rails that need repair. He said there is still Hubbard-Davis timber stand improvements to get done also.

Mr. Johnson reported he is working on a GIS digital map for Pudding Pond which is mostly done, and has to prepare a Forest Management Plan for East Conway. There is some property line repainting to do (\$750) and he will look into that. He said he has a signed agreement, but will prepare an addendum to take into account those items left out.

Mr. Johnson said he has looked at the pump track. He said he saw where it was flagged out, he is in favor of what they want to do there; however, he feels that when used, the turn-around would have to be flattened. Mr. Adair commented that kids are not big enough to work the pump track. Mr. Johnson said we are ready now to seed it down and questioned whether he should seed it over where they are going to do the work. Mr. Adair felt he should go ahead and do it, noting they will disturb what they must and everything else will be seeded. Mr. Johnson stated it is heavily used and they would be crazy not to see that it is well kept. He stated he will get the seeding done right away, and that probably the Forest Management Plan will wait until fall.

Mr. Adair noted as regards mowing in Whitaker Woods, Cort Hansen and Nat Lucy have been doing that to some extent. Mr. Johnson stated they have been doing it for a couple of years – he has not. Mr. Weathers noted they should not be doing anything without an agreement. It was noted it has been in the budget every year and they have never billed for it.

b. Wink Lees – TNC – Not present.

c. **Treasurer’s Report** - None.

d. **Selectmen’s Report** – Mr. Weathers said there has been a request from the Town Manager for something more definitive from the CCC in regard to the 11.5 acre lot on the North/South Road belonging to the State. He said the Selectmen sent a letter to DOT requesting an extension on their deadline. Mr. Weathers said he questions what the State can do with the land if they decide not to sell it - can they give it, retain it, accept \$1 for it? He believes we should spend the money to work up a conservation easement, that he does not know if a private person bought it whether they would be willing to do that. He suggested we need a better directive as regards what they will allow us to do.

Mr. Pinkham said Mr. Sires has asked for something more clear as a result of this meeting; however, in March it was made clear in the Minutes. He has drafted a memo that revisits where we were in March (attached) which reflects what we expressed previously.

Mr. Weathers noted we never decided for a favorable report it has to meet “X” number of the 11 points. Mr. Pinkham advised we said it would have to meet a *majority* of them. Mr. Pinkham questioned whether that house lot is buildable where it is adjacent at the height of land, noting if it is buildable, we could purchase the land, separate the lots and sell them to recover the purchase price. It could increase the tax revenue to the town. Mr. Weathers suggested waiting to see about the time frame before committing the funds, stating he does not see spending 20% of our funds to purchase eleven acres. Mr. Adair pointed out they have offered it to us in fee, if we say no, they will offer it to someone else in fee and they will sell to recoup their price. He stated when we discussed it in March and voted for it, we were clear that we wanted to go ahead with purchasing it. **Motion was made by Mr. Adair, seconded by Ms. Lyman, that the CCC send the memo drafted by the Chair, changing the 4th sentence to read “the lot is an important section of the *proposed* recreation trail.” Motion carried with 4 votes in the affirmative, one negative vote (Mr. Weathers) and one abstention (Mr. Lucy).**

Reappointment of Commissioners: Motion was made by Mr. Weathers, seconded by Ms. Lyman, that Larry Huemmler, Linda Kearney and Karla Allen be reappointed for a 3-year term each. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Election of officers was deferred.

Upper Saco Valley Land Trust: Mr. Pinkham reported USVLT would like a meeting with the CCC and including other people. It was his opinion that the meeting they held for the Selectmen was a failure and poorly done – it was an opportunity for them to explain how they went about things and they did not do that. Mr. Weathers agreed that they did not tell them how they could use this information in the future. Ms. Lyman pointed out they did mention the areas they felt were the more congested are the areas that should be addressed first. Mr. Pinkham would have preferred a “how do we use it” presentation. Ms. Lyman questioned whether there is the feeling that their study is still beneficial with all the things they did. Mr. Pinkham said they needed to know that is a lot to do, should have made it clear as to what can be accomplished with the information.

Town Conservation Easements: Mr. Adair said we apparently do not have a deed on the Hurricane Mt. common lands and Mr. Sires was to discuss this with Atty. Malia.

Saco River Committee: Mr. Weathers reported he met with Mr. Sires and Paul DegliAngeli today and apparently Mr. DegliAngeli had met with Peter Gagnon – they are still looking at the north side of River Road and the North Conway Precinct is somewhat interested, but still wants to protect that well area. Mr. DegliAngeli reported there is a new material coming out which might be effective for use in the pull off area - it is not affected by flooding, rain, mud, or traffic. It is a cell-like material and anything can be put on top of it.

Mr. Weathers said the vendors are still in hopes of doing something; however, he does not feel it could be done prior to the July “onslaught.” The material would be placed where they drop off and they could possibly use the same material on the path that has been used by the foot traffic. Mr. Weathers said if they are going to repair that, he does not want the swimmers and bathers to be disturbed and suggested putting up directional signs pointing to the north, for the canoers to put in north of the existing beach. He questioned also how to limit it to make sure no one goes out into the field. He suggested gating on both ends and in the late fall removing the posts. Ms. Kearney stated if the public is drawing water from the well head, the State will not allow us to put anything in there. Mr. Weathers said he will have Mr. DegliAngeli check with DES.

Wetlands Applications: Mr. Weathers said the State approved A&D Gould for a driveway extension permit.

Application has been submitted to DES by Conway Village Fire District dealing with shore land protection as a part of their sewer and water project on Pequawket Drive; however, the State is requesting some information before going ahead on that.

There is a new wetlands application from Tin Mt. Conservation Center – same as last year- for trout restoration work in East Conway.

Pump Track Extension/ Kids’ Track: Motion by Ms. Kearney, second by Mr. Weathers, to approve the kids’ track and pump track extension. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Note was made by Mr. Pinkham that they would need a letter of understanding should there be a timber harvest required there. Mr. Adair will take care of that.

Ms. Lyman questioned insurance for the kids track. Mr. Pinkham said we do not charge, so there is no liability. Mr. Adair noted in some towns where they have bike parks they have signs “at your own risk” or advising that it is potentially dangerous. Mr. Weathers suggested review by the Municipal Assn.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary