

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
February 12, 2014**

The February meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 p.m. at the Whitaker Homesite in North Conway, NH. Members present were: Rob Adair, Linda Kearney, David Weathers, Dan Lucy and Carol Lyman. Alternate, Matthew Coughlan joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Coughlan was appointed a full voting member for this meeting only.

**1. Approval of Minutes 1/8/14: Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Ms. Lyman, that the Minutes of the Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> meeting be accepted as circulated. Motion carried with 4 votes in the affirmative and 1 abstention (Weathers).**

**2. Public Comment:** None.

**3. Reports:** Neither Mr. Johnson or Mr. Lees was present.

Selectmen's Report: Mr. Weathers noted during a Selectmen's review of 2013 budgets by department it was found that the Conservation Commission had overspent its budget by approximately \$1500 and he could not explain this. Mr. Adair noted the TNC bill came in last week for \$2,000, but he assumed we were on budget. He requested Treasurer, Carol Lyman, pull the 2013 expenditures and let us know the status.

Mr. Weathers reported inquiry has been made for a new application for Cranmore expansion; however, no set of plans was provided so there was no way to know what wetlands were possibly impacted. Mr. Adair said someone from H.E.Bergeron had made inquiry regarding what impact the Cranmore expansion might have; however, no plans were made available.

**4. Other Business:**

**a. Nomination/Election of Officers – Motion by Ms. Kearney, second by Mr. Weathers, that the slate of officers remain status quo: Chair – Rob Adair, Vice Chair – Larry Huemmler, Treasurer - Carol Lyman. Motion carried with 5 votes in the affirmative and Mr. Adair abstaining.**

**Reappointment of Members** – Mr. Weathers reported the Board of Selectmen have reappointed Dan Lucy as a full voting member for a three year term, and Paul Pinkham has been appointed as Alternate, going from 7 to 6 members

**b. Marshall West Side Road Land** – Mr. Adair reported he had met with Mr. Weathers, Earl Sires, Town Manager, Assessor, Tom Holmes, and Sut and Margaret Marshall regarding the West Side Road property. He stated they do not have any sort of agreement yet and he requested they come up with an acceptable figure for the two family lots, and for the five

parcels as a whole. The hope is to have this by the March meeting after Mr. Marshall contacts family members.

**c. Whitaker Woods Dog Trail** – Mr. Lucy said he has not been able to go any further on that, but plans to discuss it with some of the people who came up with the idea. Mr. Weathers questioned whether they want a separate trail just for people with dogs? He was told yes. Mr. Lucy said the idea others have come up with is a loop in an effort to confine the dogs somewhat to a certain path because people are not being responsible enough with their dogs and are not cleaning up after them. Mr. Weathers noted there are presently no restrictions on animals on a leash using the entire property. Mr. Adair noted the Rec Dept. had provided some doggy bag receptacles, also MWV Ski Touring is making an effort to keep the area nice. Mr. Lucy said he is not sure it will amount to much unless we have restrictions, adding that many people ski with their dogs and are not cleaning up after them. Mr. Adair acknowledged that it will be extremely hard to enforce. Ms. Lyman questioned whether it would be beneficial to request people to limit their dogs to specific areas.

Mr. Adair offered to meet with Mr. Lucy and those people who have expressed an interest. Mr. Lucy agreed they should get those people who want it done together to address such questions as to how to enforce it, where the trail is going to go, and who will use it. Ms. Kearney questioned whether the CCC or the town would have the authority to post regulations. Mr. Weathers assured her we could – it is our land. Mr. Lucy commented enforcement is the hang up. Mr. Adair suggested sitting down with ski touring people and see how they want to accomplish this. He will contact them to set up a meeting.

**d. Pudding Pond Beavers** – Mr. Adair reported that Karla Allen has found a new beaver box design that works and is low maintenance, but has not found a NH supplier. Upon question of what a beaver box is, Mr. Weathers explained it is a 3-sided wooden culvert, open on the bottom, the theory being the beavers cannot block it up. Regarding trapping beavers, it was noted there is no regulation against it other than obtaining permission from the landowner. Mr. Adair said he will contact Dennis Hill to let him know we are still debating this issue.

**e. Member Roundtable** – Mr. Coughlan announced he has taken a new job with the Student Conservation Association; a nationwide non profit organization with a number of residential programs throughout the country, one of which is in Bear Brook State Park which he is affiliated with. He explained they have about 20 college age people who will be doing conservation work. He said traditionally it is with NH Parks – for the past two years they have been on Black Cap working for TNC. He said he has been talking to different Conservation Commissions throughout the State to find out what the needs are and let them know what the Assn. offers.

Mr. Coughlan provided paperwork on the program: 24 day hitches – 6 people with 4 days off in the field, 20 service days, at a cost of about \$20,000. They are self-sufficient - bring all their own food, tools, etc., and set up their own camp. They are fully insured. They are trained on chain saw safety and operation, look for work that has significant conservation value, and property that is open to the public. Also they are trained in the use of a winch system that can be used to haul a number of things, for instance, large boulders, and moving them through the woods, also they build such things as stone staircases and water bars. Mr.

Coughlan noted that part of this program is funded through Americorp partnership. It is a 10-month program from January through October. He said the students get money to put toward college and a small living stipend while they are doing it.

Mr. Weathers pointed out one of the requirements is it has to be open to the public. Mr. Coughlan stated it can be private property or easement as long as they show public use of it. He cited as an example a private island which is being made available as part of the program, for use by veterans.

Mr. Adair questioned the application process. Mr. Coughlan stated it is pretty much filled up for this season; there may be some flexibility. They require filling out a crew request form – a one page informal document. He said he contacts the applicant and goes out and does a site visit. He noted a lot of the partner organizations apply for grants which helps with the funding; also they have been experimenting with splitting a hitch.

Mr. Weathers wondered whether some of the recommendations that Don Johnson has suggested might be considered, but noted it may end up costing more, noting we would have to prioritize where we want to work and then try to accomplish that. Mr. Adair suggested, for instance, the Walkers Pond area they would probably “knock out” in a week. Mr. Coughlan stated last year they put in a 40’ timber bridge and a 40 stone step staircase in one hitch; however, they would not be buying the lumber to build a bridge.

DES Reports: Mr. Weathers reported the town has received information/inquiry from DES on two projects: Forestry minimum impact for Kennett Corp. for Rockhouse Mountain, and for Conway Village Fire District for additional information for the town/state Washington Street Project. He said the only other new inquiry is regarding Cranmore.

#### **5. Next Meeting – March 12, 2014.**

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, **Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Weathers and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail T. Currier, Recording Secretary