

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
June 11, 2014**

The June 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, Chair; Larry Huemmler, Vice Chair; David Weathers, Selectmen's Representative; Linda Kearney; and Dan Lucy.

1. **Approval of Minutes 05/14/14:** The Minutes of May 14, 2014 should be amended as follows: page 2, third full paragraph, line 5 should read "...is actually on Cranmore Road Land...". **Motion was made by Ms. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Weathers, that the Minutes of the May 14th meeting be accepted as amended. Motion unanimously carried.**

2. **Public Comment:** None.

3. **Reports:**

Don Johnson – FLI: Mr. Johnson was not in attendance.

Wetland Applications: Mr. Weathers stated there were no new applications, but received notifications. Mr. Weathers stated the NHDOT closed East Side Road due to a culvert collapsing, but that has been fixed and is now open.

Mr. Weathers stated that Steve Duprey of 85 Artist Falls Road received a complaint of violation for filling in a wetland and diverting water. Mr. Weathers stated NHDES has issued a cease and desist order.

Mr. Weathers stated International Ski and Sport Liquidators needed to stabilize 250 square feet of the embankment along the Saco River and stabilize the access road off Valley View Drive (the old pump house road).

Selectmen's Report: Mr. Weathers stated there was nothing to report.

4. **Other Business**

Marshall West Side Road: Mr. Adair stated we have received a letter from Sut Marshall on behalf of the Marshall Family dated June 10, 2014. Mr. Adair stated that the proposal is to sell the five lots for \$625,000 with keeping timber rights for two years for \$225,000. Mr. Adair stated he had a long conversation with Sut yesterday and he has laid out other options.

Mr. Weathers stated that he would like to see their forester work with our forester, Don Johnson. Mr. Weathers stated Don will look at the long term goals. Mr. Weathers stated that we will be expending money for Don's time and not sure where that money going to come from.

Ms. Kearney stated that if we obtain this land do we have any money to do anything with it. Mr. Weathers stated we don't have to do it all at once; it will be an ongoing operation. Ms. Kearney asked what happens if they don't get what they think they were going to get with the timber cut; will they keep cutting. Mr. Weathers stated that they should have a pretty good handle on the prices.

Mr. Lucy stated in the big future it is a reusable resource; it will regrow. Mr. Adair stated that there are some concerns and questions regarding the harvesting if they maintain the timber rights. Mr. Adair stated that he has been provided with other options: 1) purchase the two southern lots, Ingalls and Cross Farm, for \$608,000; or 2) purchase the three southern lots, Ingalls, Cross Farm and the Amos Merrill Farm for \$700,000 with the option to buy the two northern lots for an additional \$150,000.

Mr. Adair stated that they would like \$850,000 for all. Mr. Adair stated that the downside of option 2, which is the three lots, is it empties our bank account. Mr. Adair asked if there is a chance of going to the Board of Selectmen to ask if the CCC did a timber cut that the money would come back to the CCC bank account. Mr. Weathers stated he spoke with the Town Manager and part of the money from the revenue was to go into the land acquisition account and part to the general fund to offset taxes, but that was changed as most went into the land acquisition account.

Mr. Weathers stated when current use is paid it all goes into the land acquisition account, but it can be changed by the BOS. Mr. Weathers stated that we are losing revenue and losing value for the Town by purchasing this property and the Town is looking for additional revenue. Mr. Weathers stated that it is a tough time putting every bit of it into the land acquisition account; should be split.

Mr. Weathers asked when do we say enough is enough; we have control of over 2,000 acres. Mr. Weathers stated whenever we accept one of these lands we are losing revenue in tax dollars and it costs us money to manage. Ms. Kearney agreed and stated it would be great to have more land, but don't need it just to have it. Mr. Lucy stated it can't hurt to have a little bit more. Mr. Lucy stated that the first option is the best deal; lowers the price and they log it. Mr. Lucy stated if we buy it as a whole we don't know where the logging money will go.

Mr. Adair stated that we have some wonderful conservation lands, but we don't have anything on the West Side. Mr. Adair stated that it is definitely a wildlife corridor, there is an active snowmobile trail, and there are trails from the old skid road. Mr. Adair stated that it is a unique piece of land. Mr. Adair stated that he understands the tax base, but it is in current use so not taking a huge hit.

Mr. Kearney stated that the property could be bringing in more tax dollars. Mr. Weathers stated that more development costs Town's money, too. Mr. Adair stated there are other expenses when land is developed. Mr. Weathers stated that he would rather purchase for \$625,000 and have the two foresters working together.

Mr. Lucy asked if there is anything in the future that prevents the land from being sold; any of the conservation land. Mr. Weathers stated it would have to be at the vote of the voters. Mr. Weathers stated if the Town is in such dire straits to sell land it is a one-year fix; it does not make sense to liquidate parcels.

Mr. Lucy stated that he likes the first plan too; and it would be nice if they would work with our forester, but it is not a deal breaker for him. The Board was concerned if the timber prices tank what that would mean for cutting.

Mr. Lucy moved, seconded by Mr. Huemmler, to accept the proposal per the letter of June 10, 2014 by Sut Marshall on behalf of the Marshall family with a \$625,000 purchase price and with timber rights over the next two years for a value of \$225,000 of timber. Motion carried with Mr. Lucy, Mr. Huemmler, Ms. Kearney and Mr. Adair voting in the affirmative and Mr. Weathers abstaining from voting (4-0-1).

Next Meeting: The Board canceled the July 2014 meeting, unless something comes up; the next meeting will be August 13, 2014.

Member Roundtable:

Mr. Adair stated there was a trail work weekend; 17 people worked at Red Tail Trail cleaning up the drainages. Mr. Adair stated that they have been working Tuesdays on the mitigation lands.

Adjourn: There being no further business; **the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,
Holly L. Meserve, Acting Recording Secretary**