

**CONWAY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2017**

The March monthly meeting of the Conway Conservation Commission convened at 6:30 P.M. at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Present: Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler, Linda Kearney, Pat Ferland, Alternate; Selectmen Representative Dave Weathers, Theresa Gallagher, Recording Secretary

Absent: Chairman Rob Adair, Carol Lyman, Treasurer; Dan Lucy, Karla Allen, Nat Lucy, Alternate

Also Attending: Linda Comeau, Land Protection Specialist, USVLT

There was not a quorum for the February 8, 2017 monthly meeting.

1. **Approval of the Minutes 1/11/2017: Vice Chairman Larry Huemmler asked for a motion to accept the January 11, 2017 meeting minutes; Linda Kearney made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 11, 2017; seconded by Pat Ferland. Larry Huemmler asked if there was any discussion or corrections; there were none. Larry Huemmler called for a vote to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion passed (3-0-1). Dave Weathers abstained as he was not present at the meeting..**
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Linda Comeau, Land Protection Specialist, spoke on behalf of the USVLT acquisition of Pine Hill. Linda displayed a map of the land being acquired. She explained that it is one of their largest land acquisitions which will provide a lot of services such as recreation trails and the view shed. The organization set aside \$30,000 in their stewardship funds to do trail maintenance and trail expansion. She announced that a Community Forum will be held on April 14th to ask local residents how they would like to see this land used and managed in the future. The organization also has \$150,000 from LCHIP which will be used to purchase this property as well as to purchase the land on Bald Hill next to Tin Mountain Conservation Center. The cost for that project will be split between USVLT and TMCC, who will have an easement on the property. The Marshall family also donated to this project. At this time Linda announced that USVLT is requesting \$10,000 from the Conway Conservation Commission. It was brought up that the CCC has funds left over in their LCHIP funds, which has to be used for a conservation project. Dave Weathers had a question about taking the money given to the Town, and giving it to another entity. If the USVLT wants to request the funds from the Town, he believes they have to go before the Board of Selectmen, and not just the Conservation Commission. In the past, some of the funds went to the Lucy Farm project, which covered protection of the aquifers. Linda Comeau explained that the Pine Hill project also includes aquifer protection. It has 3,000 square feet of Saco River frontage for water protection; the entire project is 125 acres. David Weathers will check with Earle Sires, Town Manager, to see if USVLT has to go before the board of selectmen with their request of a donation of our LCHIP funds".

A question came up about clear cutting the property. Linda answered that they have not finalized their plans, and it has not been decided if any cutting will be done. Their intent is to

protect endangered species, and to have traditional uses/multi uses on the property, like recreation trails, and forest management. Dave Weathers said he believes that clear cutting a piece of property selectively is ok, with the supervision of a professional forest service agency. The map was reviewed; Linda Comeau said they will meet with the High School staff to ask for their input on this acquisition. Linda Comeau will wait to hear from Dave Weathers to plan the next step.

4. Reports and Other Business:

No report from Forester Don Johnson.

Vice Chair Larry Huemmler announced that the American Cancer Society is requesting the use of Whitaker Woods for their fund raising event. It gets set up on Saturday and the walk is on Sunday. **Larry Huemmler asked for a motion to allow the ACS to use the property for the event. Dave Weathers made a motion to allow the ACS to use Whitaker Woods for their fund raiser on October 15, 2017; seconded by Linda Kearney. Motion passed unanimously. (4-0)**

5. Selectmen's Report: Dave Weathers reported that there is one application completed and submitted to the State. The property is by Brownfield Road heading toward the four corners; there's a small brook that crosses the road and they want to replace the culvert. It impacts less than 40 feet of property.

6. Round Table Discussion: The Conservation Commission discussed having protected conservation easements as opposed to conservation land, which is owned by the Town. The CCC manages all the conservation property the Town owns, which is over 2,000 acres. It's all divided up into different pieces of parcels of land, some of which has restrictions. Some of the parcels don't have any protection other than the CCC managing them. At some point the Town may decide to sell them to help the Town financially. However, it would help the Town just for that year, and would not be an ongoing benefit. The Town's tax rate has not moved in the last 4 years.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be April 12, 2017 at 6:30 at the Whitaker Home Site Meeting House in North Conway.

Adjourn: Linda Kearny made a motion to adjourn at 6:57 P.M.; seconded by Pat Ferland. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Ann Gallagher

Recording Secretary