

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING  
DECEMBER 13, 2006

**PRESENT:** Bob Boynton, Chairman, Dan Daly, Harvey Green, Doug Waite, Freddi Kazo, David Lage (L), David McTigue (M), Jack Messe, Joanne Meshna, Liz Freeman (Open Space Committee)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

Freddi made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2006 meeting. Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Joe Fionda, 599 Turnpike Road, addressed the Commission to explain a serious flooding and erosion problem, diversion of the brook and possible pollution on his property. He distributed a handout detailing the problems on the property. The Selectmen are meeting with Mr. Fionda to walk the property on Sunday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m. and Mr. Fionda encouraged the Conservation Commission members to join them. Bob stated that one or more members would walk the site before the next Conservation Commission meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Open Space:** Liz explained the two difference between appropriating funds to be used for purchasing property and authorizing the purchase of a specific property and distributed a handout to the Commission. She also explained how the land use change tax revenues are handled now and another way to handle the revenues which would involve the approval by the town of a land use change tax fund. At the end of each year, up to \$50,000 is transferred to the conservation fund and the town votes how to distribute the rest. The Commission decided to put forth a warrant article for a land use change tax fund and a warrant article for a capital reserve fund for general land acquisition.

**Trails:** Bob suggested that the Commission consider renaming the Furnace Brook Trail to Geoff's Trail with a plaque at the head of the trail in Geoff's honor. Doug made a motion to do so. Freddi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Bob will contact Dixie for her approval.

**Lands:** Jack and David M. will monitor the Currier easement on Saturday, December 16, 2006.

**Nominating:** Dan made a motion that that Bob and Freddi be appointed for three year terms as full members. Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Dan made a motion that Harvey be appointed as vice chairman for one year, Bob be appointed as chairman for one year and Joanne be appointed as secretary for one year. Jack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Jeff Littleton has informed Bob that the state has accepted Tophet Swamp as a prime wetland.

**New Business:**

A public hearing will be held on January 10, 2007 at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of purchasing a tertiary conservation easement on a portion of the Hampshire Country School property using \$9,000 from the Conservation Commission conservation fund. Bob will meet with the Board of Selectmen on January 2, 2007 for their approval of the payment.

Bob will also request that the Monadnock Conservancy forward \$41,000 to the Northeast Wilderness Trust's Wapack Wilderness Campaign.

Harvey will prepare a warrant article to make Timbertop Road (from Willard/Huse Roads) to the Rindge town line a scenic road.

**Coming Events:**

January 20 – Hampshire Country School snowshoe outing; departs at 9:00 from Sharon Arts Center.

February 4 – Tophet Swamp snowshoe outing; departs at 9:00 from Sharon Arts Center.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary