

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 11, 2008

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, Doug Waitt, David McTigue, Jack Messe, William Watkinson, Freddi Kazo, Joanne Meshna
ABSENT: Betsy Thoms, David Keurulainen

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

Al Jenks, 1180 Turnpike Road, met with the Commission to discuss putting 140 acres of his land into a conservation easement. The land is located on the north and east sides of Barrett Mountain. Mr. Jenks would like to reserve the timber rights and the right to have his cross country ski trails on the easement. He would also like to reserve areas for placement of wind mills. He has approached the Monadnock Conservancy and they are deciding if they can accept a commercial enterprise. Mr. Jenks asked the Commission if they would consider helping him defray some of the costs of putting the land in easement. He submitted a list of expenses which ranged from \$13,790 to \$24,300. The survey to be done by Ed Rogers would be a compass and tape survey and would be clearly marked on a plan. Bob will contact the Monadnock Conservancy to determine how they came up with their figures. Bob stated the Commission would be willing to contribute but asked Mr. Jenks to try and tighten up the estimate. Bob explained the process for accepting the easement.

Mr. Rogers offered his services to the Commission if there are other property owners interested in putting their land in easement. He also stated he would be interested in monitoring conservation land. He expressed his concern that there is no survey on record for the Hampshire Country School and offered his assistance with it. Bob will contact the Executive Director of NE Wilderness Trust and pass Ed's name along to him.

Committee Reports:

Open Space: Members read the letter and flyer to be sent to landowners and finalized the copy. Bob will prepare Commission letterhead and Joanne will mail the document out.

The Planning Board is working on the cluster ordinance. Liz Freeman and Doug will meet on their proposed changes. Bob asked that the Commission review the proposed changes once the Planning Board has them finalized.

8:30 p.m.

Jonathan Sawyer asked to speak to the Commission. Mr. Sawyer had requested that he be allowed to do maple sugaring on the Johnson property. He was denied the request as the deed for the property states that the easement is not to be used for commercial use. Mr. Sawyer noted that the conservation easement states that maple sugaring is allowed. Bob responded that the deed supersedes the conservation easement. Mr. Sawyer inquired

why Barrett Farm was not in violation of the deed and Bob explained that the fields are to be maintained and since the Conservation Commission cannot do that, Barrett Farm does. Mr. Sawyer stated that the town should encourage local farmers to be viable and use local resources to do so.

Trails: David, Bob and Jack walked the Johnson trail. There was some dumping of trash on the conservation land from an abutting property. A letter was sent to the property owner asking him to refrain from the dumping.

A trail still needs to be done on the Kellogg property. John Allen and Stan Kellogg, Jr. need to be contacted and invited to walk the property to lay out the trail.

Water Resources: The Department of Environmental Services will be conducting a year long project to test for bacteria in the Furnace Brook watershed area.

New Business: Bob received a call from Dixie Rhoads. She is one of five people in town who have formed an environmental trust. Two thousand dollars will be awarded to an organization in town doing environmental work. There are no guidelines. Members suggested possible projects such as designation of another prime wetland, topographical foldable map of town with trails, mailing of pamphlet to all property owners, and water testing.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna
Land Use Manager