

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2009

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David McTigue, Freddi Kazo, Dixie Rhoads, Jack Messe, Becky Doyle, Joanne Meshna
ABSENT: Bill Watkinson, Doug Waitt

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

Bob made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2009 meeting. Dixie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Trails: A timber cutting is being done on the Kellogg property. Once that is done, Bob and Jack will mark the trail.

Lands: Bob reported that the offer of \$15,000 for the Rice property on Tophet Swamp has been accepted. There is no public access by land but public access by water. Dixie made a motion that the Conservation Commission acquire the 35 acre parcel for \$15,000. Jack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Commission discussed the reasons to purchase the land: 1) wildlife habitat protection, 2) wetlands protection, 3) adds linkage to other protected properties and 4) recreation. Joanne will forward the list to the Board of Selectmen.

Members discussed the Johnson property. There are three fields of approximately 40 acres which are starting to grow in. Bob suggested that the fields be kept open and the trees cut and stumped in order to do so. He estimated approximately \$20,000 for the cutting. It was decided that Bob will contact the Town Forester and walk the property, and prepare a RFP to be sent out to interested parties for bids.

Monitoring of properties needs to be done. Jack and David will do the Currier property, Bob and Dixie will do the LeClair property and Doug will do the Kellogg property along with another volunteer.

Communications: Freddi prepared a Green Sheet on junk cars which she will e-mail to everyone for input. Bob added that Chief Chamberlain and Selectmen Lawrence had made note of some of the properties with junk cars.

Freddi will speak again with the Montagus about putting their land into protection.

Water Resources: Dixie reported that three water tests have been done and three more tests have been scheduled. Contact Dixie for the dates. Volunteers meet at the pool parking lot. So far, approximately \$700 has been spent.

Tree Warden: Bob referred to RSA 232:139. He also spoke with Mary Reynolds, Urban Forester for the state of New Hampshire. Becky's name is to be submitted to the Director, Division of Forest and Lands, Department of Resource and Economic Development for nomination as Tree Warden. A phone interview will be held and then Becky will be appointed. Bob will submit Becky's name.

New Business: The September meeting is cancelled. Bob will be on vacation.

The annual meeting is in October. Jack, Doug and David were appointed to the Nominating Committee.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife from Massachusetts contacted Bob to inform him that there is a 30 foot piece of land along the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border that belongs to New Hampshire/New Ipswich.

Dixie had a timber cutting done on her property off Greenville Road. There was a problem with siltation and Bob contacted the logger who put in silt fences, etc. Another property is being logged on the Souhegan River. The Shoreland Protection Act does not apply. Bob will contact the logger to walk the property and point out areas where protection of the wetlands is needed.

Upcoming Events: October 11, 2009, hike to Binney Hill and beyond. Departs from Sharon Arts Center at 9:00 sharp.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary