

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

PRESENT: Bob Boynton, Chairman, David Lage (L), Jack Messe, Harvey Green, Doug Waitt, Betsy Thoms, Bill Watkinson, David McTigue (M), Joanne Meshna

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

The minutes of the August 8, 2007 meeting were amended as follows: second paragraph under Lands, second sentence should read "He referred to..."; page 2, under Coming Events, sentence should read "October 13 – fall foliage hike at Hampshire Country School sponsored by the New Ipswich and Temple Conservation Commissions and the Northeast Wilderness Trust." David M. made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Joanne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Matt LeClair from Barrett Hill Farm was present to discuss his ten-year conservation treatment plan for the Johnson property. Mr. LeClair has been managing the property for the past ten years rotating corn and hay crops. He stated he would like to continue as he has been doing with the same kind of management plan. Bob stated that the Commission would review the agreement, have town counsel review it and then both parties can sign it. Doug suggested that a soils analysis be done to assure the quality of the soil is maintained. David L. noted he would like to see a property management plan be in place before a contract is signed.

Committee Reports:

Trails: Bob walked the Johnson property and that trail needs work and a name. He also walked the Williams' trail and reported it is getting a lot of use; he walked the Rhoads' property and noted it is getting more use since the marker has been put up.

Jack walked the Nussdorfer trail with a Boy Scout looking for a fall project. The Scout will focus on the kiosk, trail maintenance and bridge work. Bob asked that the Scout prepare a plan of what he would like to do and present it to the Commission. He also suggested that for reblazing of the trail that the Scout research the proper way to display the trail markers.

Jack stated that he also had another Scout interested in working on the Rhoads' property. A kiosk is needed as well as trail maintenance and marking of the trail. Again, it was suggested that the Scout prepare a plan for presentation to the Commission. The Rhoads' property is to be monitored by Bob and Jack and they will do so with the Scout.

The Whirlpool Road trail at the River Road end needs to be completed and marked with trail markers.

Communications: Bob announced that he has put up a new Conservation Commission web site.

Water Resources: With regard to the variance application to the Zoning Board by Jim Traffie, Doug reported that Rick Van de Poll has walked the site and discovered that in his opinion the wetlands delineation made by Mr. Traffie's wetland scientist was incorrect. All parties will meet and review the site again on September 21. Members suggested that in all cases of wetlands crossings the town should hire their own wetlands scientist; this would need to be reviewed by town counsel.

Doug reviewed a minimum impact expedited application for Samuel Batchelder on Mason Road. An existing culvert that has been blocked by a beaver dam will be dug up and replaced by a stream bed, lined with smooth rocks and the beaver dam on the upstream end of the culvert will be removed, restoring a seasonal stream to its original status. The project will eliminate a small seasonal pond caused by the beaver dam which the beavers have abandoned. Doug approved of the plan and the application was signed by Bob. Doug will send a letter to the Zoning Board noting the Commission's approval.

Doug was contacted by Richard Hirtle, 677 Ashby Road, who would like to put in a foot path over a seasonal stream. Mr. Hirtle will need to apply for a use variance and apply to the DES for a minimal impact expedited application. Doug approved of the project.

Doug noted that there was a possible wetlands violation caused from runoff from an open excavation area on Oak Hill Road into a nearby stream. He will file a complaint with the state.

The Town Clerk has returned the Perkio application to them as it was incomplete for failure to notify the abutters or sign the application.

Tree Warden: Betsy completed a draft of the "Request to Cut Town Trees" form. Joanne will type it up. It will be given to Chief Chamberlain for his comment.

David L. noted there were trees in the park that should be cut down or moved as they interfere with the bleachers. Also, shade trees are needed. Betsy will visit the park to see what needs to be done.

New Business: Harvey made a motion to pay an invoice from Rick Van de Poll for \$1,068.75 for services rendered on the Traffie application. David M. seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dan, Freddi and David M. were appointed to the Nominating Committee. The October meeting is the annual meeting. Officers need to be reappointed and Doug and Jack also need to be reappointed. New members are needed and Joanne will ask Marie to put a notice on the town web site that the Commission is looking for new members.

Old Business: The Kellogg estate had asked the Commission to put off placing a trail on their property until they had completed timber cutting this summer. However, no cutting was done. Bob asked Joanne to send a letter stating that the Commission would be moving ahead with the trail.

Coming Events: October 13, fall foliage hike (Hampshire Country School) sponsored by the Northeast Wilderness Trust and the New Ipswich and Temple Conservation Commissions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Meshna, Secretary