

MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 6, 2009
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED 4/15/09

PRESENT- Dean Anson, Hillary Martin, Kyril Mitchell, Mary Hutchins, Diane Hanley

ABSENT – Marnie Schulz, Lisa Morin

STAFF – Greg Jones, Conservation Planning Tech

GUESTS – N/A

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CALL TO ORDER- Dean 6:12pm

OLD BUSINESS

1) Approval of 3/18/09 Minutes – Regular session/Executive session

Motion: Kyril Mitchell to approve both sets of minutes for the 3/18/09 meeting

Seconded: Mary Hutchins

Vote: Unanimous

2) Conservation Easement Monitoring – Tabled until next meeting

3) Robbie Mills Garden Spring Maintenance Discussion – The Conservation Technician explained that with the coming of spring some maintenance activities will need to take place at the existing Robbie Mills garden which was installed during the summer of 2008. The Commission agreed that this maintenance will be needed but felt that these activities did not need to occur for a few more weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Earth Day Garden Planting Project 2009 – The Conservation Technician explained that the Recreation Department Director suggested a 2009 garden planting would be welcomed at the Robbie Mills Park entrance sign area. The Commission was happy with this location. One concern that was brought to light was the distance from the water services at the clubhouse to the garden. The Commission felt that an appropriate garden for this area, due to lack of water service, should be comprised of some drought resistance native species so that watering activities are not needed on a regular basis. The Commission decided to wait until Co. Chairperson Marnie Schulz, a master gardener, is in attendance at the April 15th meeting before making any decisions on purchasing plant species. Earth Day 2009 is on April 22nd and so the Commission is hoping the weather will permit the installation of this garden.

2) Potential Land Acquisition Project Discussion –

The Conservation Technician explained that he gathered information from the 1998 wetland evaluation report for the Pickerel Pond wetland area for use when approaching the landowner of a potential conservation easement in this area. The commission

explained that they would like to see the draft Natural Resource Inventory soon in order to utilize the new information for the pursuit of this easement as well. Diane Hanley explained that she has been in touch with the consultants and will relay any updates on the draft completion as she is made aware of them. The Conservation Technician supplied Diane Hanley and Mr. McLaughlin with copies of the 1998 wetland evaluation report, which was used by the NRI consultants for the upcoming NRI, for information materials to be shown to the property owner.

- 3) Spring 2009 Community Outreach Project Discussion** – Item Tabled until members from Project Extra! are available to speak with us at a scheduled meeting. The commission is hoping to retain the stream cleanup project and start working on other brooks within the City.

PLANNING BOARD LIAISON REPORT:

Kyril Mitchell explained that the upcoming Planning Board meeting, which is scheduled for 4/7/09, would be discussing the Methadone Clinic appeal. The applicant is appealing the condition of approval that requires a uniformed Laconia police officer and cruiser to be stationed at the clinic during all hours of operation.

PERMIT SUB COMMITTEE REPORT: Nothing to report at this time.

ANY OTHER BUINESS:

Hillary Martin explained that she and Marnie Schulz attended the “Saving Special Places” workshop that was held at the Gilford High School over the past weekend. Hillary brought materials she gathered from the workshop and explained some of the things she learned to the Commission. The Conservation Technician explained that since their attendance was for the benefit of the commission, and materials were supplied, registration dues of \$75.00 a piece should be reimbursed. The Commission felt that this request was warranted. In addition, the Commission felt that purchasing the “Conserving Your Land: Options for NH Landowners” handbook, which Hillary presented to the commission after purchasing a copy from the workshop, would be useful to the commission. This handbook was published by the UNH Cooperative Extension Forestry Information Center.

Motion: Mary Hutchins motioned to reimburse Hillary and Marnie the \$75 registration fee.

Seconded: Dean Anson

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Dean Anson to buy 10 of the Conserving Your Land handbooks from UNH Cooperative Extension.

Seconded: Kyril Mitchell

Vote: Unanimous

Diane Hanley explained that the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) has been tracking new legislation in NH and there are a number of bills proposed that the Commission should be made aware of. One of these bills, HB-350-R, would prohibit the

sale of dishwashing detergent which contains phosphorus. Diane explained that dishwashing detergents have been developed without containing phosphorus and has found them to work quite well. She urged the commission to follow the progression of this bill. Diane also explained that a group of citizens concerned with the appropriateness of the newly adopted NH CSPA regulations have been asking for a series of amendments to these regulations in order to remove restrictions on land use within 250' of State waters. The group had originally sought to "gut" the CSPA but their attempts failed. Diane explained that the series of amendments this group is asking for would effectively remove a large number of protections supplied by the CSPA and so the State Department of Environmental Services and LMAC have been the only conservation groups defending the purpose and intent of the current CSPA. The Commission felt very strongly that Conservation Commissions and other environmental groups need to show their support for the current CSPA by attending the amendment discussions or even writing a letter from the commission to State representatives. The Conservation Technician explained that he would be happy to draft a letter on behalf of the Commission supporting the CSPA in its current form.

Dean Anson explained that the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association submitted a grant application to the Samuel P. Pardoe foundation. He explained that one issue that came up was Mary Phillips, Grants manager for the Pardoe Foundation, had applications from the NH Audubon, Society for the Protection of NH Forests and BCCD to inventory and identify environmentally sensitive lands in order to facilitate the process of protecting them with conservation easements. These grants applications however did not include working with local Conservation Commissions and utilizing information that has been produced by these organizations in the past. Dean explained that the Pardoe foundation is having an independent party review the applications in order to coordinate the activities.

Mary Hutchins mentioned the "Big Box Swindle" presentation by Stacey Mitchell which was held on March 31st at the Laconia High School. Members of the commission expressed their feelings regarding the concept of Big Box stores having an impact on the vitality of local business and, in turn, the local economy.

Meeting ended at: 7:15

Respectfully submitted_____