

MINUTES OF CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
January 6, 2010
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Approved at the 1/20/2010 meeting

PRESENT- Marnie Schulz, **Co Chair**, Hillary Martin, Dean Anson, Tobias Paddock, Deb. Williams, and Lisa Morin

ABSENT- Walter Kalin

STAFF – Scott McPhie, Planning Technician

I. **Call to Order**: The January 6, 2010 meeting of the Laconia Conservation Commission was called to order at 6:00 pm by M. Schulz.

II. **Old Business** :

Approval of the minutes: 12/2/2009

D. Williams made a motion, seconded by H. Martin, to approve the minutes of December 2, 2010 as written. The motion passed 3-0-3. M. Schulz, L. Morin, and T. Paddock abstained.

-**Grant Updates**: Project Extra deadline met. Updates on other grants in process

S. McPhie indicated the deadline for project extra was achieved and the grant application was tightened up to better meet EPA's suggestions from last years grant rejection. The Conservation Commission major interest in the grant was to fund an environmental fair. S. McPhie added teachers representing various schools would be available as water testing volunteers and assist the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association to fill water testing requests. .

D. Anson and L. Morin met with abutters of Black Brook to discuss a possible conservation easement to better protect the Brook. Current negotiations are ongoing but timing does not permit the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association to meet the deadline for the DES ARM mitigation grant fund. Discussions will continue and additional grant funding will be sought. The Town of Gilford is also included in discussions.

S. McPhie added an additional grant opportunity to the master spread sheet. The innovative exotic grant deadline will be on 2/19/2010. If interested a project site should be suggested by the next Conservation meeting on January 20, 2010. Please indicate interest at the next meeting.

-Prioritization of NRI Goals

D. Anson suggested the creation of a master NRI map showing: open space, conservation lands, and buffers, built out areas, unbuildable areas, vernal pools, and other features. Members of the Conservation Commission could visit the office at their convenience and indicate the top ten sites they would like to acquire with current use funds. Owners would be invited to attend future gatherings to learn more about land sales, easements, and outright donations of land.

III. Liaison & Sub-Committee Reports

Planning Board Liaison – T. Paddock

T. Paddock reviewed last night's Planning Board meeting. Impact fees and the steep slopes ordinance were discussed. No resolution was achieved on the steep slopes ordinance. Twenty communities have the steep slopes ordinance in place and the PB sought additional information from those communities. The impact fee ordinance was passed with the Planning Board and staff assigned the task to determine a fair and equitable cost to levy on future developments.

Permit Sub-Committee – W. Kalin, M. Schulz

No permits were received by January 6, 2010.

V. Other Business

L. Morin, Belknap County Conservation District, will create a winter erosion workshop in conjunction with the Anthony Drive stream restoration project.

L. Morin expressed concerns about snowmobile riders on one of the Harrington Easements. S. McPhie located a federal restriction on the use of snowmobiles but was not able to locate the signed document.

Previous minutes indicated Mr. Harrington permitted limited snowmobile activity on the parcel easement not acquired with federal funds. M. Schulz confirmed Mr. Harrington mentioned snowmobiles had permission to use his property on a limited basis. L. Morin will confirm with Mr. Harrington where the snowmobile tracks are occurring and ask if he would like to have action taken. A suggestion to contact the Belknap County Snowmobile Association was made. A member expressed that it is not the snowmobilers that are in the club that are the problem. S. McPhie expressed the difficulty in enforcing such a restriction. It would require local police and State Fish and Game officers to work jointly to determine who it is and follow specific guidelines to even get the offender into court... S. McPhie suggested a time be set up to take pictures and see what options are available to discourage such activity or to let the activity continue if it is permitted.

VI. **Adjournment**

L. Morin moved to adjourn with the second made by H. Martin. The meeting was over at 7:40 PM.