

Approved July 8, 2009

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2009**

Members: Carpenter, Chamberlain, Hogue, McIlroy, Morris (recording), Reeve (chair), White, Smith (staff)

Also: Julia Griffin (Town Manager)

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The commission developed edits for the draft, which will be reconsidered for adoption at next month's meeting

MEETING MINUTES

MOTION (Reeve): approval of minutes of the April 8 meeting, which was continued on April 15. Morris seconded. Unanimous.

MOTION (Morris): approval, with three corrections, of the May 13 meeting minutes. Reeve seconded. Unanimous approval by the members who had been at that meeting.

RENNIE ROAD

McIlroy reported his discussion with Bernie Waugh on the nuances of the Zoning Board's permitting decision on their recent case. See attachment.

USE OF THE CONSERVATION FUND TO PROVIDE A FIFTH DAY PER WEEK OF EMPLOYMENT FOR VICKI SMITH

Vicki has proposed an additional day per week of employment, to be funded by the Conservation Fund, the purpose of which would be:

- develop baseline documentation for the conservation easements for which the commission is responsible
- easement monitoring
- completion of the amendment of the Open Space Priorities Plan
- finish the management plans for Marshall-Pressey Brook, Mink Brook and Pipers Lane

McIlroy: funding should come out of the town's operating budget

Carpenter: this should be a public discussion about the use of the Conservation Fund, not a closed meeting about personnel (Note: the meeting is being conducted as an open meeting)

McIlroy: information and monitoring of lands acquired through the Conservation Fund should be funded by the Conservation Fund. Similar work for other lands should be funded out of the town budget.

Griffin: The Select Board is not asking the Conservation Commission to use the Conservation Fund for employment purposes. The town budget for the next fiscal year is dependant on decisions by the state about disbursement to the town of monies that have

come to Hanover in previous years, but which may not this year. Another 30 to 60 days are needed to clarify the town's budget position. Griffin has not talked to the Select Board yet about this proposal.

Chamberlain: Even if the Conservation Fund were used for this purpose for one year, there is no guarantee the town could pick up the cost in subsequent years.

McIlroy: is comfortable using the Conservation Fund for specific tasks, but not for ongoing job support

Griffin: the warrant article creating the Conservation Fund does not answer the question of whether use of the Fund for payment of benefits for a town employee is legitimate.

Carpenter: Under what circumstances can the Conservation Commission act independently of the Select Board? The Commission has a contract with a consultant (Rick van de Pohl) that did not require Select Board approval.

Griffin: The commission can spend up to \$50,000/year without Select Board approval, but, according to state law, not on a separate contract with a current town employee (i.e., not on Vicki's proposal)

Reeve: the job outline and schedule would need to be very clear. All five days of Vicki's employment would have to be administered by Jonathan Edwards.

White: who would pay for benefits?

Griffin: needs to get answers to some of these questions from the town lawyer

Reeve: The discussion should be continued when we have answers to questions.

Griffin: will email the questions to the lawyer, with copies to commission members

Smith: will email job description to commission members

White: is concerned that this situation will not be resolved in a timely way because of the need for the state reimbursement decisions, summer vacations, etc.

DANA EASEMENTS

Vicki has informed the Dana heirs that the town lawyer interprets the easement document for the parcel accessed from Moose Mountain Road as not allowing subdivision. She has not heard back from the heirs.

Hunting on the three parcels: Helen LaCoss reports that Ernest Dana did not post his land to prevent hunting, and she believes he would not have cared if hunting took place. McIlroy suggested that we should not continue to impose no hunting on the upper lot without the agreement of the co-owners (Dana heirs). Hunting has not been allowed on the lower two lots since the Select Board decided to prohibit it in 1996. McIlroy suggests that we ask the Select Board to reverse the decision so as to allow deer hunting. Morris said that in all cases about hunting the safety of the neighbors must be given serious consideration.

MOTION (Carpenter): that the commission notify the Select Board of our desire to rescind posting of all Dana conservation easement properties. Seconded by Reeve. Unanimous.

McIlroy suggested that the log landing behind the cemetery on Old Dana Road be used as a parking lot for use of the nearby Dana parcels. DPW has agreed to smooth out the road.

LEBRUN PROPERTY

The Lebrun parcel in Hanover has been bought by people from Texas. Vicki has informed their architect that the commission is interested in acquiring a conservation easement.

LA SUNCOOK

Proposal for rezoning in Hanover will probably be submitted in the fall, by which time Rick van de Pohl's NRI will be close to completion.

LEND A HAND DAY

The Ledyard Bank is offering to give the town \$1 to buy seedling trees for every person who agrees to accept paperless accounting. These trees could be planted in the town nursery by bank employees on Oct. 17, designated as Lend a Hand Day. McIlroy will oversee the project.

TRAIL ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

A property owner whose parcel is adjacent to town land is concerned about walkers who are cutting across his land. The Trails Committee will pile up logs to block access.

COMMISSION BUDGET

Members agreed to payment to the Upper Valley Trails Association for trails work and for annual dues; and for \$150 to the Goose Pond Association for the Lake Host Program.

REPORT ON REMOVAL OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Barbara McIlroy submitted a report (attached) on work accomplished this spring.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Reeve) to adjourn at 8 p.m. Seconded by Carpenter. Unanimous.

Attachments:

Explanation of the Zoning Board's decision

Invasive Species Report