

Approved: October 14, 2009

Conservation Commission

Minutes of the September 9, 2009 Meeting

Present: Robin Carpenter (vice-chair), Vicki Smith (staff), Anne Morris, Ed Chamberlain (recording), Ray Hogue, Sandra White, Douglas McIlroy, Michael Mayor, Athos Rassias (Selectman representative). Visitors: Ed Kerrigan, Dan Nash, Jay Barrett.

Carpenter opened the meeting at 5:10pm

- 1. Anne Schofield's request to cut limbs and trees on town-owned land to enhance her view:** The Commission decided that there would be no public benefit from this action, and thus approval for the Schofield request would violate our written policy. McIlroy moved that we approve only the cutting of dead limbs. Seconded by Morris. 6 Yes/1No. Request to trim other than dead limbs denied. Smith and Mayor will work with Anne Schofield to ascertain the limbs that can be cut. Carpenter voted in the minority, and asked that the Commission revisit our written policy on cutting on conservation properties by private citizens. Ray Hogue agreed with Carpenter. Anne Morris asked that the definition of harm in our written policy also be revisited.
- 2. Revised Kerrigan proposal for construction impacting wetlands setback at 9 Heneage Lane:** Ed Kerrigan (property owner), Dan Nash (engineer) and Jay Barrett (architect) were present to answer questions about the Kerrigan proposal. The applicant's wetland scientist has redefined the wetlands and the applicant has reduced the amount of wetland setback impacted since the previous appearance before the Commission. McIlroy took exception to the applicant's apparent disregard to the intent of the zoning ordinance regarding protecting the area in the 25-75 ft setback. Chamberlain took exception with a statement made by Kerrigan that he had taken great care in the preparation of the site and his application. Chamberlain objected to the extensive site work done before the application was submitted – site work that effectively obscured verification of the wetland boundaries. There was considerable discussion of drainage with neighbors on record of concern (Friedman) and support (Cadwalder).

Carpenter moved that we support the application with the following comments:

- 1) The driveway should be no wider than 14 feet.
- 2) Drip edges should be added to the plan in order to properly drain roof runoff.
- 3) Slope stabilization measures should be added to the construction sequence.
- 4) The southern slope should be as absorptive as reasonably possible to minimize runoff to the abutting land.
- 5) Silt fence is planned below the wall while the wall is being constructed. Once the wall is in place, silt fence should be installed above it, in order to (1) hold sediment within the disturbed area, and (2) make the fence readily visible and more likely to be kept in repair to effectively control erosion.

6) The Commission commends the proposed planting plan.

Mayor seconded. 6 Yes / 1 Abstain (Chamberlain)

Following the vote, there was considerable discussion about how we can better protect the 25 to 75 foot wetlands setback buffer.

- 3. NH Protected River Signs at Ledyard Bridge and Wilson's Landing:** Vicki made the case for placing NH Protected River signs at these two locations. This is a part of the State's Rivers Management and Protection program. The discussion revolved around sign pollution and the cost of placing the signs. Chamberlain moved that we place signs at both ends of the Ledyard Bridge and at Wilson's landing at a cost of no more than \$300. Mayor seconded. 3 Yes / 4 No. Motion defeated.
- 4. Baum Conservation lands:** Vicki Smith presented plans to build a privy at the cabin site and build a new trail to service that cabin on the Baum property. Mayor moved that we authorize the Trails Committee to review and approve the plans for the proposed trail. Carpenter seconded. 7 Yes / 0 No. Approved. Specific plan for the privy must be forwarded to the Commission prior to any action on that request being taken.
- 5. Tanzi Tract Boundary Survey:** In trying to locate the boundaries of the Tanzi Tract, Vicki discovered possible incursions by a neighbor into the Tanzi Tract. Because some of the boundary monuments are apparently missing, a surveyor needs to be brought in to re-establish the boundaries so that we can be clear about where the common boundary is located. Morris moved and Mayor seconded, that we employ a land surveyor to define the boundary of the Tanzi tract at a cost of no more than \$600. Yes 7 No 0 Motion approved.
- 6. Lend A Hand Day:** Vicki presented a request by the Ledyard bank for a community service project under the "Land A Hand Day" program. McIlroy suggest establishing a new trail on the Town owned Hovey Lane to Curriur Place parcel.
- 7. Water Company Lands:** Anne Morris led a discussion of the Town's and College's plans to make the water company a public water works. We again focused on the plan to separate the watershed lands from the reservoirs and infrastructure, and the need for more transparency in the operation of the water company. Public meetings to discuss the proposal will be held on September 23rd in town and on the 30th in Etna.
- 8. Robin Carpenter** announced that he will not ask for his appointment to the Commission be renewed, and thus, this would be his last meeting. The Board thanked him for his valuable contributions to its work over the years.
- 9. Steele property on Lyme Road.** Vicki reported that Mrs. Steele wants to sell her 6-acre parcel opposite the Chieftain Motel on Lyme Road. Mrs. Steele is receptive to a conservation sale. Vicki has contacted the Hanover Improvement Society to ask if they are interested as the parcel abuts their Storrs Pond property, but they are not in a

financial position to act at his time. After considerable discussion of the merits of protecting this parcel, we decided on making a site visit before taking any action. Vicki will schedule the next site visit.

9 Trails Committee Report: McIlroy asked that we give a tip of the hat recognition to Tom Linell for his good work for the Commission. All agreed. Also made note of working on new trails for the Baum property.

10. Other Business: Carpenter asked that we have the draft minutes posted on the Town web site. Mayor moved, Morris seconded that we post the draft minutes of our monthly meetings on the Towns web site.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.