

**Minutes of the Peterborough Conservation Commission Meeting  
April 29, 2010, Peterborough Town House, 7 p.m.**

Present: Jo Anne Carr, Swift Corwin, Bryn Dumas, John Patterson, Francie Von Mertens, Robert Wood

Excused: John Kerrick, Matt Lundsted

Guest: Dick Estes, Susan Stanbury; Craig Hicks and Peter LaRoche

In John Kerrick's absence, Francie Von Mertens chaired the meeting.

**New member**

Von Mertens introduced Susan Stanbury who has volunteered to serve on the Commission. Susan has extensive experience in town management and government, including overseeing land conservation planning and funding.

Von Mertens will memo the Select Board with request that Susan be appointed an alternate.

The Commission will then have seven full members and two alternates.

**Zoning Board application**

Peter LaRoche, representing Wilson Farms LLC, explained that the condominium project's 2007 approval from the ZBA for an expanded accessway to the property is about to run out. He said no changes have been made to the plans.

Members voted to approve the following letter to the Zoning Board (John Patterson motion; Robert Wood second):

**At its April 29, 2010 meeting, the Conservation Commission voted to reaffirm its letter of March 29, 2007 relating to an expanded accessway to the Wilson Farms residential development that crosses the Wetlands Protection District and Shoreland Conservation Zone.**

**Transcript Dam**

Swift Corwin reported on his inquiries relating to possible removal of the Transcript dam located at library corner. He determined that there was an ongoing study of the dam by NHDES through funding secured by DPW head Rodney Bartlett. Von Mertens asked if there was any role for the ConCom to play, and suggested a pro-and-con analysis would be helpful – for ConCom education if nothing more. Resulting discussion:

Positives for removal: aeration/oxygenation; habitat approval including aquatic; increase in vegetative buffer; recreation (trout fishing). Possible cost savings if extensive reconstruction is needed.

Positives for maintaining dam: aesthetics; recreation (boating); potential hydro power; maintenance of historic dam.

Robert Wood asked whether there was considerable sediment backed up by the dam and said that sediment disposal needs to be done correctly.

In response to questions about the nature of the NHDES dam study (structural only? natural resource as consideration?) Corwin volunteered to be liaison with Rodney Bartlett on this and other projects relevant to natural resource protection and enhancement.

## **Forestry**

Corwin reported that he has called in an inspector from the state Division of Forest and Lands on a timber cut along Town Line Brook where the required shoreland buffer may not have been maintained.

As the meeting education component, he gave a run-down on state forestry laws. He said the two main considerations were basal area and slash.

50% basal area maintained: 50' buffer along streams and waterbodies

150' buffer along 4<sup>th</sup> order streams & great ponds (>10 Ac)

150' along public highway

In wetland/waterway buffer a mix of saplings, shrubs, ground cover must be maintained. No basal area restrictions along property lines or intermittent streams.

Slash: no slash / mill waste in any perennial stream or waterbody

no slash 50' from public highway or R.R. right of way or from great pond

no slash 25' from property line or 4<sup>th</sup> order stream (Contoocook and Nubanusit)

no slash above 4' 150' from public highway or from great pond

It's the town's responsibility to notify the Div. of Forest and Lands of a possible infraction; state is to act within 10 days.

Relevant permits must be posted visibly on site; operation is not to start before Intent-to-cut is signed including NHDES notification if wetlands/stream crossings are involved. If wetland/stream crossings, following erosion control BMPs is mandatory.

Corwin said there are no restrictions against clear-cutting, including on steep slopes. Stumps may not be removed in standard forestry operations.

## **Monthly Meeting time**

New meeting time for the ConCom will be the third Thursday of each month. This is intended to allow greater turnaround time for comment to the Zoning Board and Planning Board.

## **Other**

Von Mertens mentioned the upcoming town vote May 11 at the polls and sit-down session May 12, 7 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. **The next regularly scheduled meeting will be the third Thursday of May, the 20<sup>th</sup>.**

/fvm