

**Minutes of the Peterborough Conservation Commission Meeting
August 19, 2010, Peterborough Town House, 7 p.m.**

Present: Jo Anne Carr, Bryn Dumas, John Kerrick, John Patterson, Susan Stanbury,
Francie Von Mertens, Robert Wood

Guest: Dick Estes

July's minutes were approved. Alex Walker from the Open Space Committee has volunteered to post minutes to the town web page, guaranteeing prompt posting. There has been a six-month lag.

Beavers/river corridor trees

Dick Estes reported that he has notified Rodney Bartlett about beavers killing mature trees along the forested river buffer upstream from the Transcript Dam. He said that hardware cloth, not chicken wire, is the recommended tree protection. John Patterson volunteered to convey ConCom support for protecting the trees to Mr. Bartlett.

Jo Anne Carr asked what impact the road upgrade would have on the trees. She will ask ConCom DPW liaison Swift Corwin to find that out with the goal of maintaining as many trees as possible.

Elm Street Lot

Francie Von Mertens reported possibility of a 10-man Corrections Department workgang cutting the invasive buckthorn saplings at the Elm Street lot with hand tools. Preliminary chainsaw work on the site would expedite that.

Babine, Wheeler and Lowe town parcels

Bryn Dumas reported the workgang he organized removed three truckloads of trash from the Class VI road that gives access to the parcels.

John Patterson showed his boundary marking work and GPS point mapping. He found all but two submerged corners. Access to the properties has been along the Greenfield/Peterborough town line. Dumas and Patterson will explore alternate access along an old farm or logging road, and Dumas will check with Rick Van de Poll on the most logical access.

Patterson distributed copies of the draft conservation easement from the Monadnock Conservancy. He said that Swift Corwin has approved the timber harvest reserved rights (in event of storm damage, habitat management, or insect infestation only). The Conservancy's lawyer needs to review the easement, board approve it, and then it comes to Peterborough town counsel for review and final approval/signing by the Selectboard.

Landowner acknowledgment

The Open Space Committee welcomes ideas on an appropriate way to recognize and thank landowners conserving their land. With a look at the photos in the selectboard room of conserved properties in town, ConCom supported hiring Annie Card to accompany the landowners to a favorite location on the land; take photos; and one will be framed with an inscription of gratitude from the Selectboard.

John Kerrick suggested the photos in the meeting room be clearly marked as being of the conserved landscape.

Wetlands ordinance

Jo Anne Carr updated the group on the proposed ordinance that will be voted on in May. She said that the selectboard is planning educational outreach to logical groups (Rotary, Chamber, etc.). Some more model situations, applying the buffer width formula to real properties, most likely will be part of the educational outreach.

She said that Carol Ogilvie is looking into possible overlap with shoreland regulations, and whether shoreland buffers should be added to the ordinance.

Carr questioned the utility of more public hearings if the ordinance isn't changed substantively. Legally, the required number of hearings has been held.

Conservation easements

Susan Stanbury has developed a spreadsheet for the easements held by the ConCom and said she would be contacting volunteer monitors as needed. Peterborough Players is the one as yet without a monitor. Von Mertens will ask former monitor Rachael Bowman to monitor the easement one more time with Susan Stanbury as part of a transfer of monitors.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be the third Thursday of September, the 16th.

/fvm