



Minutes of the Peterborough Conservation Commission

February 17, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Peterborough Town House

Present: Jo Anne Carr, Swift Corwin, Matt Lundsted, John Patterson, Susan Stanbury, Robert Wood

Excused: Bryn Dumas, John Kerrick, Francie Von Mertens

1. **Minutes** – Minutes for January's meeting were approved.
2. **Shoreland** – SB154 – Movement to repeal or revise the State's Shoreland Protection Rules
 - Can we as the Con Com do anything? NH Lakes Assn., River Council are negotiating offline with the main sponsor of the bill rather than representatives.

Action: Wood recommends writing/contacting local reps.

3. **Easement** - Susan Stanbury reported that at Von Mertens's request she followed up on an offer by Karen Clement and Richard Jordan who are eager to place a conservation easement on their property abutting Casalis State Forest. Richard Jordan's brother John was the contact person. Stanbury, together with Ed Henault, Chair of the Open Space Committee, met with John in Carol Olgivie's office to discuss this donation. John reported that the survey had been completed and the property was 62 acres. Of this acreage, four little houses together with an adjacent meadow—also the septic field—would be carved out and placed under a homeowner's association, leaving 52 acres to be preserved. The meadow itself is home to monarch butterflies and bobolinks, so under the homeowner's agreement, it would be mulch mowed annually after September 1st each year.

Clement/Jordan had first applied to the Monadnock Conservancy, but they had been turned down because the owners do not want any logging to take place on the property. Therefore, they are approaching the Town.

Stanbury attended the Open Space Committee meeting on February 10th. The members reviewed their priority list of properties and confirmed this land is rated high because of its location next to Casalis State Forest, its accessible woodlands, and connection to the natural marsh and wetlands. The Open Space Committee voted unanimously to support acquiring this easement.

The following comments/suggestions were noted regarding the proposal:



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- Corwin would not recommend a “never log it” stance since a forever clause may be shortsighted – forests change over time and could become a problem.
- Corwin noted several conditions could be set to limit logging.
- “Forever wild” easements need to be looked at very, very closely and not entered into lightly.
- Perhaps talk to Nature Conservancy or the Audubon Society.
- This is not an old growth forest, probably overgrown fields at this point.
- They have survey done, not asking for legal \$\$.

Action: Recommend going to Nature Conservancy or Audubon Society, Wildland Trust, etc.

4. **Easement** - Daloz change – land along the Hancock town line.

- Noted that the abutting landowner had a property survey done and the piece is smaller than shown in the Town’s records.
- Approximately 15 acres has gone from easement to not easement– now 25 acres not 40 acres.
- The deeds will now need to change – not sure where this is in the process.
- The landowners should submit a “boundary line adjustment” and the Town’s mapping company would change the Town’s official tax map.
- Patterson has spoken to Town Assessor Leo Smith and he is looking into it.

Action:

1. Patterson will follow up with Town Assessor.
2. Patterson also noted the presence of a shed. Need to send a letter telling them to take it down. Stanbury will follow up with the Town.

5. **Conval Conservation Project**

- Corwin and Von Mertens met with the group.
- Deadline established to get them ideas.
- Up to 150 students.
- Potential for several groups of 6-7 kids.
- April there will still be snow.
 - Can’t do replanting.
 - Will be muddy.
 - Maybe something with building/construction.



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- The question has been raised can the date move to later in the spring to allow for gardening, clearing, etc.
- Educational videos, wetlands, YouTube competition?

Action:

1. Think of non-revegetation projects. Con Com to email ideas around.
2. Wood to call Scott Bradford.

6. **Wetlands Zoning (Update)**- Lundsted

- Lundsted updated that the Planning Board (PB) did hold a workshop and a Public Hearing on the revised Ordinance since the last Con Com meeting.
- At the workshop the PB discussed dropping the extra 50' setback but solidifying the language for keeping the 50' buffer undisturbed and monumented.
- Key changes from the old Ordinance:
 - Wetland buffer (first 50') is undisturbed, naturally vegetated;
 - Inclusion of any wetlands over ¼ acre (previously ½ acre);
 - Going to conditional use permit (CUP) for crossings and existing non-conforming additions for multi-family and non-residential no closer to the reference line (not included in existing Ordinance);
 - Permanent monumentation of the buffer.
- At the Public Hearing most of the comments provided to the PB included the reiteration that several residents feel that any buffer is a "land taking", that monumentation constitutes "signage" and should be a ZBA issue (taken under advisement by the PB), that the process should remain with the ZBA in its entirety and that one resident doesn't know what "inviolate" means.
- Lundsted noted that one resident spoke that he was disappointed that the 100' buffer/setback was off the table and that everyone should be concerned about protecting water supplies from pollutants.
- Depending on the results of the issues taken under advisement by the PB, no other Public Hearings will be required prior to Town Meeting vote.

7. **Forestry Plans**- Corwin

- Corwin noted that he obtained a copy of the Fremont land plan and reviewed it.
- He has reviewed Fremont and it is good but could be more user friendly and as forests change over time these plans need to be updated.
- He would like to make a proposal to do it for the Town for a fee.
- Will come up with a scope and cost to do this.
- Procurement issue?



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- There are 4 or 5 properties in need updates but this does not need to happen until late summer.

Action: Wood to check on procurement policy with the Town.

8. Projects

- Discussion took place regarding individual projects for 2011. the following were discussed:
 - Wetlands Education
 - Vernal pools
- YouTube videos – public service announcements to educate on wetlands and support the wetland Ordinance revisions. It was noted that these may be more effective than public presentations or newspaper articles.

9. Other Business

- Stanbury noted she can get access to the Town's website for publication of anything we want.

/matt lundsted