

## Candia Conservation Commission

Approved

Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2009

Present: Chair Susan Wilderman, Betsy Kruse, Judi Lindsey, Dennis Lewis, Richard Snow, Deb Levesque, Ellie Davidson and Dave Ickes. Guests: Selectman Fred Kelley, Jeff Littleton, and Charlie Moreno

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Update on Sander Easement Language**– Chair Wilderman reported that Nancy Randall never replied to the inquiry of her preparing wetlands evaluation of the property so Mark West has been asked to do the study. Mark just completed similar work in the Merrimack watershed so he is familiar with what is required and is confident he can complete the project quickly. He plans on starting the work this week. His estimate for the cost of the study is \$1,240.00, which is less than the Commission anticipated. Selectmen Fred Kelley reported that Mark West has already contacted the town office to confirm that this study was approved. Fred requested that the selectmen be given the report as soon as it's completed so he can then schedule a meeting with Lori Sommer at DES. Fred agreed to contact Lori and see if she is available to attend the CCC meeting on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. If not, he will schedule a meeting at her convenience.

**Update on Clay Pond Easement:** Selectman Kelley reported that the Board of Selectmen reviewed and approved the information they had received regarding the easement and it will proceed to the next step.

**NRI – Jeff Littleton** reported:

NRI Forum on November 5<sup>th</sup>

- Press release has gone to the newspapers
- Flyer is ready to be distributed
- Draft Agenda was reviewed and discussed: Forum will include group activities and report outs on activities. A topographic map of the town will be available for inspiration. Forum will take approximately two hours. Jeff will process the information and send us the results.
- Nat Torrey has agreed to arrange for the refreshments with the help of the Commission.
- B. Kruse reported she is working on an email “invitation” that she will send.
- B. Kruse will ask J. Miele for a synopsis of the “*Wildlife Sightings*” found on the website.

NRI Process:

- Jeff reviewed the documents supplied to him, including the Open Space Plan that was produced in 2001 and the Master Plan.
- The NRI Report – Jeff proposes that he focus on creating new data. He does not want to duplicate information already available but found one thing lacking in the narrative was quantification of the data. He recommends including this in the narrative along with a brief explanation of what the resource is and why it's important. Adding hard numbers to what we already have in the Plan will enable the town to track information over time. Some maps are duplicative but might be missing important pieces. A few things he will be looking at are gravel analysis, rare species, unfragmented land, and habitat features. The Commission agreed that the quantification of data was much needed and important to have for future reference.
- He asked the Commission to request the data he requires from the Planning Commission: Building constraint maps, list of zoning ordinances (he received at meeting), shapefiles, etc. Jeff will contact Jack Munn for shapefiles and Don Dollard for the tax maps.
- Regarding grant proposals to fund Phase II of the NRI: Jeff reported that grants might be difficult to get in today's economy. He proposed that the Commission hire a Graduate student from Antioch College, where he teaches, to do the grant research. Students have access to the

grants database and it would be more cost effective to hire a student for approximately \$200 - \$300 than to pay Jeff to do the research. Jeff uses the students as research assistants on a regular basis. It was agreed that Jeff would send the Commission a proposal to hire a graduate student from Antioch College to perform the grant research. The Commission will check with the Planning Board to see if there are any CTAP funds available for this project.

- **D. Snow made a motion** to authorize Chairperson Wilderman to sign the contract to hire Jeff Littleton of Moosewood Ecological LLC to conduct a Natural Resource Inventory for Candia, seconded by B. Kruse. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Forest Management - Charlie Moreno** joined the meeting to discuss the long-term management of town forests. Discussion ensued regarding which forest might have the best potential to generate income from harvesting. It was decided that Charlie will access two sites, the approximate 30 acres on Rt. 27 near the Hooksett line and the property off of Hemlock near the Auburn line, and provide us with a proposal for which would be the best property to harvest timber.

### **Regular Business**

**Minutes of September 15** were reviewed and the following revisions were made: p.1, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph: revise “ordnance” to “ordinance”; p. 2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph: revise “concurrence” to “co-occurrence”; paragraph 2, revise: “L-Chip” to “LCHP”. **J. Lindsey motioned** to accept minutes as amended, seconded by B. Kruse. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Wetlands Permit Applications** – There were no new applications.

**Land Use, Wetlands, Enforcement Issues, Planning Board** – D. Snow is looking for input regarding the Thibeault Quarry Planning Board Action before Raymond. The Conservation Commission’s concerns to be addressed on the application are the effect to the aquifers, damage from blasting, pollution to the Lamprey River from the Watershed perspective amongst others.

**Correspondence** – Chair Wilderman reported on the following:

- Jim Franklin has completed the map of the Deerfield Rd. town forest
- NHACC 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> offering many interesting workshops. If interested, sign up and ask for re-imburement.
- NHDES Fall Newsletter
- Lamprey River Watershed annual letter with notice of Annual Meeting on October 29, 2009

**Budget Update/Approval of Outstanding Payments/Invoices** – D. Snow reported that the next Budget Committee meeting is October 29<sup>th</sup>. **D. Snow motioned** to pay Jim Franklin \$616.00 for the completion of the map and survey of the Deerfield Rd. town forest, seconded by B. Kruse. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Conservation Commission Website** – S. Wilderman will ask J. Miele to add information about the NRI Forum, including the press release, to the Conservation Commission website.

**Lamprey River Watershed Association** – Nothing new to report.

### **Old Business**

**Conservation Land/Easement(s) Acquisition Status** –

1. Rand property on High Street: The commission discussed how to proceed with the Rand easement. When the mitigation language on the Sander property is determined, there will be a clearer picture on how to proceed with other easements. The commission agreed to support moving forward with the Rand project once the Board of Selectmen approves it.

2. J. Lindsey reported that Donna Willis from Michigan contacted her about donating some land she owns off of Donovan Road (Lots 411-38 and 404-118). She is interested in donating the land, getting tax benefits, and she does not want it to be developed. J. Lindsey will send her information about "current use" and let her know the commission is very interested and will work with her to further the project. J. Lindsey will ask Dan Kern of Bear-Paw to send Ms. Willis a packet of information about putting her land into a conservation easement.
3. Joe Falzone wants to sell land on Crowley Road to the town for \$1. J. Lindsey will inform him that the commission is in favor of what he proposes but he will need to go through his channels to proceed.

**Bear-Paw Status Report** – B. Kruse reported:

- Owl Prowl on Saturday
- Coffeehouse at Deerfield Town Hall on November 14<sup>th</sup>
- Conservation Options Workshops in Nottingham on November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Roundtable on November 19<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Forest Management Activities** – Town Forest sign on Flint Road is down and needs to be re-installed.

**Commission Properties Access Planning and Requests** – There was nothing new to report.

**Open Space Subcommittee** – J. Lindsey reported that they are working on the newsletter that will go out with the Town Report packet. A draft will be ready for the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Contributors will be:

- B. Kruse – NRI Forum and Jeff Littleton
- Ben Lewis – Parking lot project on town forest
- S. Wilderman – Old Home Day (raffle)
- J. Lindsey – Agricultural Day, Recognition Event, photographs of both events and parking lot.

Please email all information to B. Kruse by October 31.

B. Kruse will cancel meeting room reservation at the library for future Open Space meetings.

**Prime Wetlands Study/NRI**

1. D. Snow requested the commission recommend that Candia join the Southeast Watershed Alliance and assign a representative. **B. Kruse motioned** to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that the town of Candia join the Southeast Watershed Alliance, seconded by J. Lindsey. All were in favor. Motion carried. Chair Wilderman will send a letter to the selectmen.
2. D. Snow reported that the NHDOT in conjunction with the USGS are offering high-resolution, leaf-off, color, aerial photographs of the town at a cost of \$6000 - \$9000. These would support the NRI and be utilized by multiple town Boards. The Commission discussed the benefits of the photographs and the funding issues regarding them. The Commission agreed they would support the concept of the town having the photographs done.

**Other Business:**

**B. Kruse motioned** to adjourn at 9:34 pm, seconded by J. Lindsey. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted  
Pat Larkin - Conservation Commission Secretary