

Candia Conservation Commission
Approved
Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2009

Present: Chair Susan Wilderman, Betsy Kruse, Judi Lindsey, Dennis Lewis, Richard Snow, Ellie Davidson and Dave Ickes. Guests: Selectmen Fred Kelley and Carleton Robie; Frank Mitchell and Dan Kern from Bear-Paw.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Update on Sander Easement Language– Chair Wilderman reported that she had been notified that the Sander Trust made the decision to not follow through with the easement on the Healy Road property.

Mark West will need to be compensated for the preliminary work he completed for the Wetland Survey.

Siemensi Easement proposal: The easement had been put on hold awaiting the outcome of the Sander easement. The Selectmen present stated they would agree to the Siemensi easement provided (1) it was written with language that allowed for mitigation if legislation is changed in the future, (2) if a wetland evaluation is completed with results showing there is usable land for mitigation and (3) results would be submitted to DES for the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Funds application. (ARM funds are available to “implement programs to restore, protect, provide habitat improvements to or create wetlands and other aquatic resources”). Dan explained that the ARM mitigation fund is separate from the mitigation the BOS are trying to change through legislation but the guidelines are the same as developers use to put together mitigation proposals and could be used to establish the likelihood of lands being eligible for mitigation. It was decided that the first step in proceeding is to meet with the BOS to review the change in procedure for establishing an easement: adding the requirements of the wetland study, the mitigation language and that an easement can proceed without the legislature changing the rules.

B. Kruse motioned that the Conservation Commission ask to be put on the agenda for the earliest possible convening of the Board of Selectmen in order to present to the Board the easement procedure and the Siemensi project, seconded by J. Lindsey. All were in favor. Motion passed. F. Kelley will put the Conservation Commission on the agenda for the BOS meeting scheduled on December 14th.

Frank Mitchell of Bear-Paw reviewed the Conservation Plan that Bear-Paw Regional Greenways recently completed. The plan identifies and describes the region’s most important ecological, biological, and water resources. Using the results of a natural resource inventory completed in 2003 along with information from the NH Wildlife Action Plan, they identified where to focus its conservation efforts. This Conservation Plan, based on science, is a great resource for the town of Candia and surrounding communities. A copy is available for review at the town office.

Dan Kern spoke about the upcoming Round Table events: Part I: Wildlife & Water: Why is it Important? November 19 • 7-9pm in Candia and Part II: Wildlife & Water: Land Use Planning and Conservation December 3 • 7-9pm Bear-Paw Office, Deerfield: Will discuss land use planning tools available to NH communities for wildlife and water protection and how they can be implemented.

Update on Clay Pond Easement: Dan Kern reported that two properties in Hooksett have withdrawn from the easement but this does not affect the maps. This project now includes twelve properties. They are currently waiting for final approval from town council in Hooksett. A draft of the easement and other necessary documentation was reviewed. The budget has not been completed, but the maximum cost to the town would be \$5000, and there’s a possibility there will be no cost to the town.

Regular Business

Minutes of October were reviewed and the following revisions were made: p.3, 1st paragraph, revise spelling of “Felzone” to “Falzone”. **S. Wilderman motioned** to accept minutes as amended, seconded by J. Lindsey. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Wetlands Permit Applications – There were no new applications. It was noted that Craig Robie of High Street received acknowledgement of his application for a minimum impact wetland permit.

Land Use, Wetlands, Enforcement Issues, Planning Board - The subdivision of the Sander property is on the agenda for the next Planning Board meeting. B. Kruse suggested that the NRI, once complete, should be presented to the Planning Board as an addendum to the Master Plan. J. Lindsey will inquire about the status of the Cost of Community study and about getting copies of the build-out maps.

Correspondence – Chair Wilderman reported on the following:

- Correspondence from the Lamprey River Watershed Association thanking us for the letter of support and informing us that their application to the National Park Service for help with their work with the Lamprey River Watershed was accepted and they are looking for further support to help them proceed.
- The NH Joint Water and Watershed Conference on November 20-21 registration information
- Climate Change Impacts to NH's Coast, Wildlife, and Forest presentation on December 8
- NROC offers a presentation to the community on the Lamprey River Watershed Community Assistance
- A recent issue of the Bear-Paw newsletter that featured an article about Ed and Ruth Fowler

Budget Update/Approval of Outstanding Payments/Invoices –

S. Wilderman motioned to reimburse registration cost of \$40 each to the three members that attended the NHACC 39th Annual Meeting workshops, seconded by B. Kruse. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Conservation Commission Website – Posters of the Candia Natural Resources Inventory Forum made by Moore School students were posted on the website.

Lamprey River Watershed Association – Reported that the annual meeting was very informative.

Old Business

Conservation Land/Easement(s) Acquisition Status –

Mitigation in easement language and the easement procedure review was further discussed.

Rand property on High Street: The commission discussed how to proceed with the Rand easement. Two quotes for appraisals were received from Marsha Beecy and Peter Nault. **D. Snow motioned** that the Conservation Commission hire Marsha Beecy to do a preliminary appraisal of the Rand property, seconded by J. Lindsey. All were in favor. Motion passed. S. Wilderman will contact Marsha Beecy.

Bear-Paw Status Report – B. Kruse reported:

- Conservation Roundtable in Candia on November 19th and at Bear-Paw on December 3rd
- The annual meeting will be held on February 14 and will feature a guest speaker.

Forest Management Activities –

- Town Forest sign on Flint Road is still down. D. Lewis will re-install.
- Litter was discovered on the Deerfield Road trail. It was decided that a notice regarding the “Carry In, Carry Out Policy” should be placed in the kiosk for those using the trail.

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

Open Space Subcommittee – The newsletter was reviewed, the text approved, and the following was decided:

- Print in color if costs is within our budget
- Text was approved; no need to number pages, do add Chairperson's name to the CCC address
- 1700 copies are needed
- D. Snow will put a copy in the BOS “Sign Folder” for their review

Prime Wetlands Study/NRI - The first NRI Forum went well and Jeff is proceeding with the study.

D. Lewis motioned to adjourn at 9:11 pm, seconded by J. Lindsey. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Larkin - Conservation Commission Secretary