

Candia Conservation Commission
APPROVED
Meeting Minutes - January 16, 2007

Present: Ed Fowler, members T. Giffen, D. Lewis, J. Miele, E. Davidson, A. Soares, J. Collette, J. Lindsey, B. Kruse and C. Harris and guest Dan Kern from Bear Paw.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Ed Fowler.

Dan Kern, Executive Director of Bear Paw Regional Greenway discussed several issues regarding the Deerfield Road Town Forest property. The subject of creating a parking lot was discussed. Dan Kern noted that we would not need to establish the parking lot now. Suggestions were made as to what side of the road would be best and it was determined that the commission would set up a site walk in the next several months to look at the options more closely. Dennis Lewis noted that the parking lot would be determined based on a state driveway permit, because this area would be a permanent access. Dennis Lewis will begin the process of filling out an application for the State of NH. A draft copy of the Conservation Easement Deed for the Deerfield Road Town Forest property was available to discuss. Under Section 3, Reserved Rights, Dan Kern suggested that the commission might want to include a section on the parking area and trail system and make note of the town's intentions. Also, some clarification needed to be made on Section 7E. Dan Kern will have Bear Paw's attorney translate the information more clearly.

On section 8 (Executory Interest) the question arose that if Bear Paw is unable to carry out its responsibilities as the easement holder, who would the town want to see hold the executory interest as easement holder. Per Dan Kern there generally would be an upfront cost, if Bear Paw fails to enforce the easement the Town still owns the property. He noted that one section of the deed allows Bear Paw to assign the easement to another group. He noted that the cost would range from organization to organization, less than \$1000. Ed Fowler noted that for whatever reason Bear Paw defaulted, the Town could look for another easement holder.

Joe Miele questioned whether there was a stewardship fund. It was noted by Ed Fowler that the CCC will be paying for stewardship which is included in the \$4000 fee.

A request was made to add Conservation Easement Deerfield Town Property to February's Agenda under Old Business.

Dan Kern also noted that a few months ago, Bear Paw was approached by the Hooksett Conservation Commission regarding a development group proposing to development a 250-300 acre parcel of property with a shared town line in Candia in the area of High Street and Hall Mountain. Thirty to forty acres are in Candia. The Hooksett Conservation Commission is looking at possible possibly conserving the property and wanted Dan Kern to present the idea to the Candia Conservation Commission as to whether to consider an interest in Candia owning a portion of the property. He noted that Bear Paw would hold the easement and that Mark West is doing a site review and the Hooksett CC is having an appraisal done. Per Dan Kern, suggested sending a letter of support from the town of Candia. There is a Conservation meeting being held on this property the first week of February.

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed noting changes. J. Lindsey noted the correct spelling of her first name. Also, page 2, paragraph 3 should read: the CCC needs "to" prioritize. A motion was made to accept the amended minutes by Betsy Kruse and seconded by J. Lindsey.

Wetland Permit Application. Ed Fowler had a final copy of Liquid Planet's Application. He understands that Liquid Planet was given approval by the planning board.

Land Use, Wetlands, Enforcement Issues, Planning Board items were discussed. Judi Lindsey noted that in regard to the Exit 3 development, the engineering firm, Stantech, has concerns that will be discussed at the January 18, planning board meeting. Dennis Lewis noted that after a quick review of the plans, the majority of the lot will be cut, with the exception of a rear buffer. Betsy Kruse noted the importance of maintaining the character of the town. Tom Giffen suggested we identify certain towns that have benefited by professional planning and present this to the planning board for future use. Under Enforcement Issues, E. Fowler noted that the Candia code enforcement officer, Bill Hallock, was traveling down Palmer Rd and noticed that there was some excavation going on the east side of the road at the Levesque property. After a review of the area DES was notified. Eben Lewis inspected the situation. Apparently, the owner's decision to do site work had a large impact on Murray Mill Brook, a perennial stream. The property owner will work to restore the damage.

Correspondence was read. A note was sent to CCC from Carbon Coalition regarding the issue of global warming. A meeting on February 17 at 8:30 am. to 11:00 am will be held at Sandy Point Discovery Center in Stratham. Also, the Estuaries Project sent notice of free technical assistance, which will provide match-free grant money to pay consultants to work on qualifying natural resource topics. Also, correspondence was read from Betsy Kruse, that was sent to Southern NH Planning Commission indicating we have projects that might lend themselves to grant writing services and questioned whether they are ready to provide those services. Also Southern NH Planning Commission sent correspondence on the Wildlife Action Plan that was discussed December 19. Ed Fowler noted that there is a scholarship program from NH Local Government Center offering up to \$750 in scholarship funds. Also, from the State of NH Dept Resources/Department of Recreation, noting a fifty-fifty matching grant program for public outdoor recreation. Also, Bear Paw sent a thank you for \$100 membership renewal. Lamprey River Watershed Association sent a thank you for the 2007 \$100 membership. A letter was also included from the LRWSA seeking funding from the NH DES to conduct an inventory on the Lamprey River riparian habitat. They plan to train and recruit volunteers for this event. The letter questioned whether the CCC would consider partnering with them and Ed suggested writing a letter of support.

Ed Fowler gave an update on the Candia Conservation fund as of November 30, noting the amount to be \$654,163.

There was nothing new to report on the Lamprey River Watershed Association.

Ed Fowler reported on the Conservation land/easement acquisition status. He noted he received copy of a letter from Liquid Planet to DES regarding their easement noting that the application was found to be incomplete. Ed Fowler noted that the CCC needs to decide upon language to present to DES regarding the Liquid Planet easement.

Under Website Joe Miele has put together a simple form for wildlife sightings. It has been determined that the website will not contain information as to where any endangered species was seen.

Elizabeth Kruse reported on the Bear Paw status report indicating that the annual meeting will be held on February 10, at Coe-Brown Academy, with guest speaker Tom Wessels.

Under Forest Management Activities, Ed Fowler received a final letter from Charlie Moreno on the timber harvest on the North Road property, totaling out the firewood and pulp wood at \$136.00. Also, regarding the Deerfield Road Town Forest property signage, Ed Fowler noted that there was some money left from last years budget that could be used for the sign. There was some question as to why the sign has such a high cost. Judi Lindsey will notify the sign maker and ask what can be done for \$ 300.00 as well as a list of material specifications and dimensions.

Under Open Space, Judi Lindsey noted that the CCC is conducting a workshop on January 31, which is targeted for land owners along the corridor in which the CCC is trying to protect. Also, there is a newsletter to go out in boy scout packet. Ed Fowler noted he received an e-mail from Rockingham County Conservation District, noting that they expect there to be more funds available for the farm and ranch land protection program. Also, Ed Fowler noted a final draft report was received from Southern NH Planning Commission called "Outreach Program to develop and implement local land use regulations to protect the remaining undisturbed natural shoreland buffers in towns of Candia and Deerfield. A section of this report is a proposed zoning amendment for buffers standards for water bodies. B. Kruse noted the purpose of this report is to get the two towns working together having similar or same zoning regarding riparian buffers. It will be presented to the town February 7, at a planning board meeting. Ed Fowler noted that Southern NH Planning Commissions, David Preece submitted a conservation grant application packet which would fund the design, construction and installation of 80 shoreland protection signs for both towns Candia and Deerfield. They are looking for volunteers to erect signs and have asked the Conservation Commissions and Road Agents to support this effort.

Under Other Business/West Environmental, discussion was made to get several other estimates (for a total of three) to compare the West estimate. Dennis Lewis asked the likelihood of getting grant money for the amount. He also noted that if we apply for a grant we need a backup funding for this. B. Kruse to research as to when grant writing services will be offered.

Tom Giffen also read correspondence from Southern NH Planning Commission, regarding the Merrimack River Watershed. They are looking at \$1,200,000 project and looking for each town within the affected region to contribute \$3,500 per year for a three year period.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m. The next regular meeting will be February 20, 2007.

Minutes respectfully submitted by C. Harris.