

Candia Conservation Commission
Approved
Meeting Notes - August 19, 2008

Present: Chairperson Ed Fowler, Tom Giffen, Dick Snow, Dennis Lewis, Deb Levesque, Ellie Davidson, Joe Miele, Vice-chair Betsy Kruse, and guests Ben Lewis and Larry Twitchell.

Secretary Charlene Harris had a last minute family emergency and was unable to record the proceedings of this meeting. Betsy Kruse offered to fill in for her.

Chairperson Ed Fowler convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Guest Ben Lewis explained his proposal for an Eagle Scout project in the Deerfield Road Town Forest. He would like to create a parking lot and bulletin board for the area in accordance with terms of the pending conservation easement to be placed on the property. He would need to finish the project by May 2009 and would enlist the help of other members of his Boy Scout troop. Dick Snow moved that the Conservation Commission authorize Ben to proceed. Tom Giffin seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Ben will draw up a plan to submit to the Conservation Commission. Once the Commission authorizes the plan, Ben will present it to the Board of Selectmen as a courtesy.

Minutes of July 15 were reviewed. A number of grammatical and spelling revisions were made. In the paragraph discussing the budget update, the last sentence was revised to read; *He (Dick Snow) noted that he budget line for secretarial wages would probably be over-expended this year.* In the paragraph discussing Conservation land/easement acquisition status, the first sentence was revised to read, *Ed reviewed last evening's Board of Selectmen meeting regarding the conservation commission's interest in providing funds for a bargain sale of the development rights on the Sander property.* In the next paragraph the word *easement* was inserted after *Sander property*. In the Bear-Paw Status Report, a *board member's home* was substituted for *the director's home*. Under Forestry Management Activities, *Herman Sander Trail* project was revised to say *forestry project*. The Open Space Subcommittee meeting date was corrected as August 18th. Under Other, the second sentence was revised to begin as *Her dissertation*. Dick Snow moved to accept the minutes as revised. Ellie Davidson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Wetlands Permit Applications: There were no applications to review.

Land Use/Wetlands/Enforcement Issues/Planning Board: There has been no answer from DES regarding the application for Crowley Rd. wetlands crossings.

Correspondence: NHEP grants are available. The deadline is September 25. Chairman Fowler reviewed questions from the Urban Forestry Center survey with the commission. He will complete and return it. The Division of Forestry and Lands sent a letter of intent to conduct forestry management activities in the Bear Brook State Park area off Podunk Rd. The work will entail about 12 acres.

An announcement from SNHPC regarding CTAP collaborative grants was discussed. Betsy will contact Deerfield and Raymond to ask if they have interest and/or suggestions for projects. Dennis will ask the Planning Board at tomorrow night's meeting whether they have interest in applying for these funds. Selectmen's secretary Dawn Chabot sent a memo explaining the dates for submission of warrant articles. Those to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen need to be in by October 24. Those regarding budget items need to be submitted by November 17.

Ed read an email from John Cole regarding SB381. The commission discussed whether to submit warrant articles to authorize the powers authorized by the bill for the March '09 vote. The commission determined it would wait until after the September 8 Selectmen's hearing before deciding on this issue. Ed received a copy of the Bear-Paw Regional Greenways Conservation Plan. He asked Betsy to put it into a larger binder so the pages wouldn't tear when turning them. Ed circulated a copy of the Derry Conservation Commission brochure. Betsy will submit it to the Open Space Committee for review.

Budget Update/Approval of outstanding payments/invoices: Dick Snow distributed copies of the budget. The commission reviewed the line items. Clerical expenses will exceed the budget, but otherwise we expect to have an overage of \$726.60 at the end of the year. Selectman Giffin suggested that we pare down the budget as much as possible for 2009. The group decided to increase clerical to \$900. Other items were reduced, resulting in a new budget total of \$2400 for 2009.

The commission discussed its need to proceed with a prime wetlands study. Previously it had decided to use the conservation fund specifically for conservation projects. It was noted that other towns have used their funds for prime wetlands studies and that this has been an acceptable use. The commission may need to follow suit. No decision regarding the matter was made at this time. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

Conservation Commission Website: Some commissioners received spam from the web site. Tom reported this to Comcast, who will filter out future occurrences.

Lamprey River Watershed Association: The association conducted an inventory of the river this summer. Charlene Harris and Judi Lindsey were slated to participate in the survey, but were unavailable to report on their activities. The association hopes to include the whole river in the Rivers Management and Protection Program. They are trying to remove Japanese Knotweed and other invasive species from the river.

Conservation land/easement acquisition status: The commission discussed the Selectmen's public hearing on the Sander project proposal. Dick Snow will make topo maps. Ed will ask Dan to enlarge one for the presentation.

Ed Fowler has received the assessments for the Sieminski properties. They are given as a range between \$384-397 thousand. The family is willing to sell them at a bargain sale for \$100-\$125 thousand. Bear-Paw would hold the conservation easement. Candia would be the executive easement holder. The commission discussed whether to include this project in the hearing on September 8. It will be mentioned as part of the corridor that would be created, but not specifically as a request for approval to purchase. Dick Snow moved that we pursue bargain sale negotiations on the Sieminski properties not to exceed \$125 thousand. Tom Giffin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bear-Paw Status Report: Betsy Kruse reported that the Suncook River walk had been cancelled due to flood stage waters that had undermined the new banks of the river, making them unsafe for walking. She also talked about the Trust for Public Lands celebration of its collaboration with Bear-Paw in completing the Isinglass River project. It protects 5 properties totaling 868 acres on almost 2 miles of the river corridor. The event will take place August 28 in Strafford.

Forest Management Activities: Ed Fowler reported that we received a check for \$2876.17 for the forest management fund from the logging project in the Flint Rd. Town Forest.

Commission Properties Access Planning and Requests: There were no requests to consider.

Open Space Subcommittee: Betsy reported that COSC brochures will be ready for Old Home Day.

Management Plans for Town Land: Dick Snow will ask Don Dollard for a tax map with GPS points so he can monitor the town property off of Hemlock Drive. If there is a fee for that map, he will consult with the selectmen.

The New Boston Rd. Conservation Area has been misused recently. The Sarras, who live across the road, have requested that the entrance be blocked off to vehicular traffic to prevent late night partiers from getting stuck in the mud. Dennis Lewis will place some large rocks there. He will also

replace the sign on the Flint Rd. Town Forest property. Dick Snow will ask Frank Sarra to finish the sign for the Deerfield Rd. Town Forest.

Proposed Riparian Buffer Ordinance: This item has been tabled until the zoning committee resumes its activities.

Future Goals/Vision of CCC: This item will be addressed at the next meeting.

Other Business: Old Home Day arrangements were confirmed. Charlene Harris was going to supply tables, but since she seemed to be unavailable, Ed Fowler can bring some. Betsy will contact Charlene about the issue. Betsy proposed sending out an email inviting anyone with an opinion on conservation - pro or con - to drop by the Conservation Commission booth. She would like to get all perspectives into a dialog to find mutually agreeable solutions to the growing controversy regarding conservation in town. The Commission members agreed by consensus that she should send the email out.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dick Snow and seconded by Tom Giffin. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Betsy Kruse