

Candia Conservation Commission
Approved
Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2009

Present: Chair Ed Fowler, Vice-Chair Betsy Kruse, Tom Giffen, Dennis Lewis, Judi Lindsey, Richard Snow, Ellie Davidson and guest Jon Ekroth.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

The meeting opened with guest Jon Ekroth who was invited to attend a CCC meeting after he expressed interest in preparing maps showing Candia conservation land. The commission reviewed a master map and an individual parcel map showing trails. They offered a number of suggestions and shared with him some information he may find helpful in preparing these maps. His efforts are greatly appreciated by the CCC.

Regular Business

Minutes of December 16 were reviewed with the following revisions:

Page 2, first line, revise “Coastal Conservation Company” to read “coastal conservation organization”; Under Budget Update, line 7, add “J. Lindsey and B. Kruse abstained.”; Page 3 under Prime Wetlands Study, line 1, add an “s” to “scientist” and line 3, change the date to read February 20, 2009.

A motion was made by Judi Lindsey to accept the minutes as amended and seconded by Betsy Kruse. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Wetlands Permit Applications – Ed Fowler reported that a Minimum Wetland Impact Expedited Permit Application for the Fieldstone Lane property owned by David and Gwen Paprocki had been filed and they were seeking the CCC approval. This plan was previously submitted as a Permit by Notification (but labeled as a Minimum Impact Permit) and was refused by DES. They are now re-submitting the plan as a Minimum Wetland Expedited Permit Application. After reviewing the application it was determined that no changes had been made and the permit application was signed.

Land Use, Wetlands, Enforcement Issues, Planning Board – Dennis Lewis reported that Harbor Street did not get their plan approved by the Planning Board due to some discrepancies and that Harbor Street had been given 60 days to comply.

Correspondence – Ed Fowler reported on the following:

- Annual report has been submitted for the Town Report.
- SNHPC sent information regarding a grant for recreational trails program. Dick Snow volunteered to take the application to study and complete if so decided.
- UNH sent information on the NH Citizen Planner Training Collaborative presenting four training modules for interested parties.
- Piscataqua River Estuary Partnership (formally the New England Estuaries Project) has several meetings scheduled regarding water resources, land use and habitat protection, and living resources and habitat restoration. Dates and times are available for anyone interested.

Budget Update/Approval of Outstanding Payments/Invoices – Ed Fowler received an invoice from Dan Kern of Bear-Paw for the amount of \$3,305.26 for work completed (drafting, legal fees) on the Deerfield Road conservation easement. The invoice has been submitted for payment. Dick Snow reported that the three dues that were to be paid in 2008 were held over into 2009 so \$450.00 was not expended. Tom Giffen stated this occurred because of the budget shortfall that required a special request from the DRA, which resulted in all funds being frozen. Since we pay our dues in advance this should not be a problem and would withstand an audit.

Dick Snow received an invoice from Jim Franklin for work done on the Deerfield Road town property. Betsy Kruse made a motion to pay Jim Franklin the amount of \$1,200 as invoiced for the completion of the survey and documentation of the Deerfield Road town property. Judi Lindsey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Conservation Commission Website – There was nothing new to report.

Lamprey River Watershed Association – Dick Snow reported that he attended the Lamprey River Research Symposium at UNH. He stated it was an excellent event and is trying to get copies of the presentations.

He also reported that a state representative from Raymond is submitting a citizen's petition warrant article to establish a committee and he feels they are beginning to build a coalition of people capable of accomplishing something.

A stream walk is planned for 2009 along some of the estuaries of the Lamprey River. One issue to be addressed is culverts and the capability of fish to pass through them. The inflow program reported that the technical information has been completed and will be used to determine how much flow is necessary to protect recreational resources, aquatic resources, and water supplies. They also plan to establish management plans for individual sites along the river.

Old Business

Conservation land/easement(s) acquisition status –Ed Fowler reported that Dan Kern hopes to have a draft of the Sander property easement available soon. When he receives it, Ed will forward a copy to the selectmen for them to study. At that time a public hearing will be scheduled to review the draft. That hearing should be adjourned and a continuation of the hearing would then be scheduled in order to review any changes made to the draft. The goal is for these hearings to occur in February.

Kevin Dumont of Liquid Planet has requested that he be given until summer 2009 to submit the baseline report and management plan that are necessary for the approval of his easement.

The Deerfield Road conservation easement was recorded with Rockingham County of Deeds on November 18, 2008. The deed was signed on November 3, 2008. Judi Lindsey will add the information to the plaque.

We received a letter from Natural Resources Conservation Services saying they overpaid the town of Candia \$683.10 for the acquisition of title insurance and they want to be reimbursed. Ed notified Mary Currier and referred to a letter from 2006 that stated NCRS would pay for this. Ms. Currier in turn notified George Cleek of the State Conservation Committee that the town of Candia should not have to pay this amount.

Bear-Paw status report – Betsy Kruse reported that a Winter Walk is scheduled for January 24th at Harmony Hill Farm in Northwood. The Bear-Paw Annual Meeting will be held in Northwood on February 14, 2009 and will feature John Litvaitis, UNH Professor of Wildlife Ecology, who will discuss his research on the effects of roads on wildlife. In the afternoon two different hikes are scheduled, one less strenuous than the other.

Forest Management Activities – There was nothing new to report.

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

Open Space Subcommittee – There was nothing new to report.

Management Plans for Town Land – There was nothing to report.

New Business

Proposed Riparian Buffer Ordinance – There was nothing to report.

Future Goals/Vision of CCC – There was nothing to report.

Prime Wetlands Study – Tom Giffen reported that he sent out the RFQs and has already heard back from three people that are very interested. He does not foresee any difficulty in procuring at least three bids for this project. The next step will be to interview the interested parties.

Citizen's Petition on Warrant Articles - Ed Fowler reported that the Citizen's Petition Warrant Article for SB381 submitted by the Conservation Commission was accepted.

Tom Giffen reported that at the last public Selectmen's Meeting, warrant articles were read and reviewed. Town Attorney Bart Mayer sent his legal opinion regarding the citizen's petition warrant articles that had been submitted. It was his legal opinion that Warrant Articles 31, 32 and 33 were "void, illegal and unenforceable" and though Warrant Articles 34 and 35 are confusing they are legal.

Other Business:

Ed Fowler reported that it has been suggested that a Cost of Community Services Analysis for the town of Candia be prepared. Ed contacted Innovative Natural Resources Solutions in Keene and received a quote of \$5000 for this type of study. They sent Ed a copy of the analysis they had completed for the town of Hooksett in 2007. To summarize, the report was broken down into residential, commercial and industrial, and open space. Their study showed that for every \$1.00 in revenue collected by the town of Hooksett, \$1.16 was spent for residential services, \$.43 was spent for commercial and industrial services, and \$.55 was spent for open space services. It was surmised that open space includes playgrounds, athletic fields and hiking trails. It was suggested that Ed contact David Preece at SNHPC to see if he has any recommendations or information regarding this type of analysis.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Giffen and seconded by Ellie Davidson. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Pat Larkin.