

Candia Conservation Commission
Approved
Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2009

Present: Chair Ed Fowler, Tom Giffen, Dennis Lewis, Judi Lindsey, Richard Snow, Ellie Davidson, Debra Levesque, and Joe Miele. Guests included Diane Philbrick, Jim Franklin, Jason Franklin, Dean Young and Sue Young.

Regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agricultural Commission: The meeting opened with guest Diane Philbrick speaking on establishing an Agricultural Commission in Candia. This concept was first introduced in 2007 and is strongly supported statewide. It would be formed and operate as an advisory commission but focused on agriculture. She is seeking support and encouragement for those pursuing this idea. The intent is for the commission to work together with other commissions in town and to provide encouragement and support for local growers. More information about Agriculture Commissions is available at www.unhextension.edu.org.

Concern was expressed about finding volunteers to serve on the commission. Diane stated that she is confident there are enough people interested in doing so. She explained that the commission and its budget would be established with a town vote. The commission would be under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen and potential members would submit letters of interest to the BOS.

It was the general consensus of the CCC that agriculture is important and having an Agriculture Commission would be beneficial to the town of Candia. They encourage and support Diane's efforts in pursuing this endeavor.

Southern Boundary of Deerfield Rd. Town Forest: Guests Jim Franklin and his son Jason addressed the commission regarding the southern boundary of the Deerfield Rd. Town Forest. The conservation easement on this property requires that definite boundaries need to be declared. The southern boundary of the town forest is in question and Jim Franklin, surveyor, was hired to research and survey the area in question. Mr. Franklin displayed a map showing the surveyed town forest and explained how he, with the help of Jim Lindsey, researched the chain of title for the areas in question. Surveys had been done in the 1800's and RSL and Gunnerson have done some of the lots more recently. Some of the methods of surveying used in the past are no longer allowed thus explaining some of the differences. Mr. Franklin believes that the lots marked CA (contention area) 1-6, were signed off by the town because the chain of ownership suddenly stops. Further research of genealogy may possibly find definite owners.

Dean and Sue Young believe the lots in question belong to them and have been paying taxes on them for many years.

The CCC made it clear that they are not questioning results of past surveys, nor are they trying to claim any land, they just need to define the southern boundary line.

Mr. Franklin informed the CCC that the law states when the division line between adjoining land owners can not be determined nor can it be determined by the deeds of their predecessors in title you can have a boundary line agreement. He suggested a boundary line agreement between abutting landowners be written to make this a definite boundary. This would be signed between the BOS and the current taxpayers, Dean and Sue Young. It was suggested the BOS contact the town attorney regarding this process. Chair Fowler will speak to the BOS and ask to have Jim Franklin put on the agenda at the first available meeting and recommend that they establish a Boundary Line Agreement.

T. Giffen motioned to amend the original contract with Jim Franklin to read \$6,300.00 to include additional work. J. Lindsey seconded. D. Snow abstained. All were in favor. Motion carried.

T. Giffen motioned to pay Jim Franklin the amount of \$3,575.00, which is for the 65% of the work that he has completed on Map 401, Lot 1-1. J. Lindsey seconded. D. Snow abstained. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Regular Business

Minutes of February 17 were reviewed and the following revision was made: p. 4, line 2, revise “it’s” to “its”. **T. Giffen motioned** to accept the minutes as amended. J. Lindsey seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Wetlands Permit Applications – Chairman Fowler reported that on February 18, 2009 the DES approved the Minimum Wetland Impact Expedited Permit Application for the Fieldstone Lane property owned by David and Gwen Paprocki.

Land Use, Wetlands, Enforcement Issues, Planning Board – Judi Lindsey reported that Harbor Street is asking the planning board for an extension. Ed Fowler reported that he applied for and received a grant of \$1,500 to help fund the *Cost to Community Service* study. Ed will contact SNHPC to see when they are available to start the process.

Correspondence – Chairman Fowler reported on the following:

- UNH Extension and the SPNHF are holding the 2009 *Saving Special Places Conference* at Gilford High School on April 4, 2009. A list of scheduled workshops was circulated and it was noted that the deadline for registration is March 20th.
- SNHPC sent a memorandum that they are holding a public meeting about Groundwater Management on March 26th in Manchester.
- Conservation Law Foundation sent brochures about the Great Bay Estuary.
- The most recent Tide Lines newsletter is available for those interested.
- A number of notices regarding upcoming meetings, lectures, and workshops were distributed for anyone interested.

Budget Update/Approval of Outstanding Payments/Invoices –

Dick Snow reported that the budget for 2009-1010 has not been established yet. The invoice from Jim Franklin that was discussed earlier will be paid from the Forest Management Fund.

Conservation Commission Website – Nothing new to report

Lamprey River Watershed Association – Dick Snow reported that the Lamprey River Watershed Association has requested to attend a CCC meeting to discuss the stream walk. They will be added to the Agenda for the April 21st meeting.

Old Business

Conservation land/easement(s) acquisition status – Chairman Fowler reminded those attending that the Public Hearing on the Sander Easement is scheduled for March 31, 2009.

Bear-Paw status report –There was nothing new to report.

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 to report.

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

New Business

Proposed Riparian Buffer Ordinance –Discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Future Goals/Vision of CCC – Discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Prime Wetlands Study –

The town of Candia is required per state statute (RSA 36-A:2) to have a natural resource inventory. Chairman Fowler reported that meetings have been scheduled with the five groups that are presenting RFQs for the natural resources inventory. The meetings are as follows: Mark West, 3/19 at 7pm at town office; Rick Van de Pol, 3/23 at 7pm at Smyth Library; Nancy Rendall, 3/25 at 7pm at town office; Jeff Littleton, 3/30 at 4pm at Smyth Library; Chris Kane, 3/30 at 7pm at Smyth Library. The CCC will provide them with any work completed so far and ask them what more do they think we need to do to comply with a full natural resource inventory. Their answer will help determine whom we ask for a RFP. Once that process is complete, grants can be investigated to help offset the cost.

Boyd Chivers expressed concern that the CCC was becoming “another regulatory bureaucracy in Candia”. The Commission explained that they are an advisory group and can only make suggestions to the DES who is the regulatory agency. The CCC would like this study done so they can make suggestions supported by scientific evidence. Currently they refer to the many maps that are available, but would like more accurate information that can be provided by an inventory. Discussion ensued about putting it to town vote before spending the funds for a natural resource inventory. It was decided that they would continue the RFP process but that further discussion is needed regarding going forward with the process.

Other Business:

- Discussion on the outcome of the town vote was discussed. A letter explaining the vote written by the LGC and sent to the BOS was shared. In part it stated “In our opinion, given the language of the articles, the impact is that the Conservation Commission remains in existence with the powers afforded by RSA 36-A:4, and none of the optional powers allowed under the new RSA 36-A:4-a were adopted and thus provided to the Conservation Commission...I hope this provides clarification to this confusing set of articles for you.”
- Discussion regarding the large amount of misinformation and misconception about conservation and the Commission that is prevalent in the town. Some suggestions to counter this: focus on getting accurate information to the townspeople, promote use of the

land, create management plans, get people involved who have a variety of interest (hunting, hiking, biking, etc.), explain conservation versus preservation.

- Regretfully, Chairman Ed Fowler, Richard Weeks and Joe Collette will not be seeking re-appointment to the Candia Conservation Commission. Tom Giffen will also be resigning before the completion of his term. Term ends at the end of March.

- Judi Lindsey reported:
 - Agriculture Day will be on May 6, 2009 at the Moore School.
 - The UNH CO-OP Barry Conservation Camp occurs in July for any youth interested in conservation. She will get the information disbursed at the Moore School and inform them that there may be a partial scholarship available (from members personal donations).
 - Brochures need to be distributed through town and more need to be printed.

J. Lindsey motioned to adjourn at 9:30 pm. T. Giffen seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Larkin
Conservation Commission Secretary