

Candia Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2009
APPROVED

Present: Susan Wilderman, Chair; Betsy Kruse; Judi Lindsey; Ellie Davidson; Dennis Lewis; Deb Levesque; Dave Ickes, Alternate; and Richard Snow.

Meeting was called to order at 700 p.m.

Guests to address the Commission

Present: Selectmen Fred Kelley and Carleton Robie, Dan Kern and Phil Auger from Bear-Paw, Ed Fowler, and John Ekroth.

Update on Sander Easement Language

Existing language concerning the mitigation is being worked on. D. Snow to keep the Board informed. Carleton Robie reported on the June 10, 2009 meeting in Concord to discuss mitigation language. J. Lindsey, Fred Kelley, Ed Fowler, Dan Kern, Town Attorney Bart Mayer, Lori Sommers from DES and a representative from the Core of Engineers were in attendance. The State wants information on the property including wetlands soils, upland soils, and any culverts that can be used in the future. Once this is done then a plan can be submitted to the State. Ed Fowler said the purpose of the amendment is to require projects that have encroached within wetland setbacks to pay a mitigation fee to be used for acquisition or protection of wetlands or other Conservation Committee purposes. He said if a project is required to financially mitigate any wetlands impact through the NH DES process then no local compensatory mitigation fee shall be approached.

The question was brought up who is going to pay for the study. Conservation Committee funds can be used for the wetland evaluations then could be recouped back through the mitigation process. The cost for the study would be under \$2500.

B. Kruse **motioned** to have Nancy Randall provide an estimate to do the wetlands evaluation that will tie into the survey. First Dennis Lewis would have to get permission from the Sanders. D. Snow **seconded. All were in favor.** Dan will forward mitigation language that has been proposed for the Sander easement.

Bear-Paw Hooksett Proposal –Hooksett Clay Head Waters Project – Dan Kern said he has been working on this project for about 3 years that involves 600-700 acres located in North East Hooksett. It is a 1.2 million dollar project in which Hooksett will only pay \$300,000 out of their fund because of Grant & mitigation funding.

He passed out paperwork and updated plans showing the land that is under Purchase & Sales Agreements. There are 4 landowners under a Purchase & Sale Agreement and they are working with the 5th landowner.

D. Kerns said the reason why he and Phil Auger are here is that the 5th property owner Jeannette Meyer Gagne owns 2 parcels in the town of Candia, Map 404 lots 083 & 084 that are part of this project. He said the Town of Hooksett doesn't want to own property in Candia and would like to know if Candia would want to purchase these 2 lots. His said Candia could use their grant funding and Candia would only have to pay 27% of the purchase values. He estimates Candia's cost for the 2 lots would be \$4,500. This land would be owned by the town and there would be similar easement language to Hooksett's but it would be in a separate easement. He said because of the L-Chip Grant the land would be open for hunting and recreational use. If Candia did not buy the land, they may propose to drop it out of the project

Chair Wilderman said the Board would have to go to Board of Selectmen and ask if they could purchase these lots. D. Kern pointed out that the Town owns property close to these lots. The Board told D. Kern they cannot give him a decision tonight.

D. Snow **motioned** to pursue becoming part of the Clay Head Waters Project. S. Wilderman **seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.**

Swain Family Trust Land

D. Kern passed out plans of Swain Family Trust land Map 406 Lots 112 & 119. It is 20+/- acres on Old Deerfield Road. The plans included soils mapping. He said the road frontage on 43 is incorrectly mapped, and at one time the old Rt. 43 ran close by. D. Kern said the Swain family is open to suggestions and asked if Candia would like to look into various options with the property.

D. Kern said they first need to find if the Town is interested in purchasing the parcel. An appraisal needs done to find the value with and without house lots before discussion of a bargain sale or conservation easement can be done. The appraisal does not involve the approval from the Board of Selectmen.

D. Snow **motioned** to authorize Bear-Paw to put the paperwork together for the cost of the appraisal on the Swain Family Trust Land Map 406 Lots 112 & 119, contingent upon agreement that the Town of Candia would be reimbursed if the agreement fell through. B. Kruse **seconded**. **All in favor. Motion carries**. A draft of the agreement will be brought to the next meeting.

GIS Mapping

E. Fowler asked to have John Ekroth talk to the Conservation Commission about GIS Mapping. John Ekroth is a town resident who has volunteered to do GIS mapping for the Town on town properties and trails.

J. Ekroth said the first map is an overall town map showing public land access and private land access. The other maps show conservation land and he needs to work on these maps. J. Lindsey is working on compiling information on each town owned land to include map and lot number, pictures, write up and trail maps. J. Ekroth to email her the trail maps. The maps will be edited for accuracy then sent to Joe Miele to put on the website before Old Home Day.

Regular Business

Review of Minutes May 19, 2009

D. Snow **motioned** to accept the minutes as amended. S. Wilderman **seconded**. **All were in favor. Motion carries**.

- Page 1, 3rd paragraph, change “Continuation of Sander Easement Hearing” to “Update on Sander Easement Mitigation Language”
- Page 1, 3rd paragraph add “Board of Selectmen” after “Bart Mayer,”
- Page 1. 8th paragraph change “April 21” to May 19”

Wetlands Permit Applications – S. Wilderman reported that there were no new wetland applications to discuss.

Land Use, Wetlands, Enforcement Issues, Planning Board – J. Lindsey reported that that she was not present at the last Planning Board meeting. D. Lewis reported that there was a 5 Lot Major Subdivision on the corner of Brown Road and Old Candia Road. There are a lot of wetlands with many long driveways and irregular shaped lots. He said the application was not formally accepted but continued to allow the applicant to come back with more information.

Correspondence

Chair Wilderman reported on the following:

- Estuary Conference, October 16, in Somersworth, NH.
- Grant proposal under Piscataqua Regional Partnership Programs.

B. Kruse reported on the following:

- Ecology Control Workshop
- Fern Identification Workshop
- A DES Cruise
- Forest Inventory Workshop and pamphlets that should have been emailed to everyone.
- Municipal volunteer awards, anyone can be nominated. Deadline due by August 28, 2009. Ellie will fill out a form.

Ed Fowler reported on the following:

- Natural Resources Conservation services. They are trying to have Candia pay for part of the Sanborn's title insurance policy. They originally said they would pay up to \$2000, now they said they would only fund 46% and therefore only pay 46%. Mary Currier said she would resolve this and that Candia should not have to pay the difference back.

Budget Update/Approval of Outstanding Payments/Invoices – D. Snow said there was nothing new to report. Chair Wilderman wanted clarification of the projected financial report that the Board of Selectmen are asking for. D. Snow to get the information. He suggested to start working on the budget in August so the budget will be ready for October. Chair Wilderman said she would add this to next month's agenda.

Conservation Commission Website – Chair Wilderman reported for J. Miele that there is nothing new to update. GIS maps will be sent by Chair Wilderman.

Lamprey River Watershed Association – D. Snow said Lamprey River Watershed Association is doing a survey stream walk survey and review in Candia. J. Lindsey and Deb Levesque were interested. Jim Lindsey was suggested as a possible participant. D. Snow said he can get training for them and will let them know when.

Old Business

Conservation Land/Easement(s) Acquisition Status – Chair Wilderman noted this was covered earlier. B. Kruse said Phil Auger was very complimentary of the parking at the Deerfield Road Town Forest. The parking lot can be used as a model for other towns.

Bear-Paw Status Report – B. Kruse reported on the following:

- Monitoring Workshops that are to train people on how to help monitor public easements on public property. They are interested in hosting a workshop on the Deerfield Road Town Forest in Oct and want to know if the Conservation Commission is interested in participating.
- Owl prowl is to be scheduled some time in October. October 17th, 18th, 24th, 25th, were agreeable dates. Exact date will be scheduled.
- The Conservation Regional Round would be a series of 2 sessions. The 1st session would identify what to protect and 2nd how to protect what we need to protect. They want to know if Candia would be interested in hosting the second session of the round table this year. It would be held in November. Date and time to be set
- J. Lindsey said that Bear-Paw is having a Pond Ecology workshop for kids in Strafford at Hill Pond. Sat Aug 15 from 9-11.

Forest Management Activities – D. Snow reported he has Charlie Freneau's number but has not contacted him yet.

Commission Properties Access Planning and Requests – Chair Wilderman said she had no new applications or requests to report.

Open Space Subcommittee – J. Lindsey said she did not have anything to report tonight. Ed Fowler reported on SNHPC Open Plan letter sent to Candia. They are looking for 8 to 10 members to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. The initial meeting will start in August with a total of 5 to 6 meetings. The committee will get together and talk about GIS maps. Candia currently has Mylars from SNHPC that were done in 2005. These will be improved upon and this will help identify high priority lands for conservation in the Town. J. Lindsey, B. Kruse, and E. Davidson were interested. A letter of intent needs to go to either Sharon Carrier in Land Use or the Board of Selectmen.

Old Home Day – Old Home Day is scheduled for August 29, 2009. B. Kruse reported that she put in to have Bear-Paw next to the Conservation Committee again. There will be a free raffle. B. Kruse said she will bring the box of brochures and order refills. Two tables and tents are needed.

New Business

Proposed Riparian Buffer Ordinance – Chair Wilderman will report back next month. Jack Munn is going to attend.

Prime Wetlands Study/NRI – Chair Wilderman reported that the subcommittee met last week and looked over 4 proposals that came in and decided on Jeff Littleton of Moose Wood Ecological. He was contacted and asked if he was willing to help find grants for the project. J. Littleton said he was interested and would help with grant writing.

There are 2 phases to accomplish the study. The 1st phase will cost \$5,000 which would be paid by the Conservation Committee. This will give J. Littleton time to work on grants to pay for the second phase which will cost \$15,000.

E. Davidson **motioned** to hire Jeff Littleton to work in the Prime Wetland/NRI study not to exceed \$5000 for phase one. Money to pay the 1st phase will come from the Conservation commission. B. Kruse **seconded. All were in favor. Motion carries.**

Round-table Meeting Discussion – Chair Wilderman informed the Committee that topics and or questions are needed by Thursday 24th for the meeting Round Table meeting on Monday July 28th. Discussion ensued of what they should be bringing to the roundtable.

The Committee was in consensus with the question: “What issues do we have in common and how can we work together to foster them and how can we help each other”.

Communication was discussed about informing the Board of Selectmen about what the Committee is doing on a monthly basis

Other Business

Discussion on having a get together for the recognition of Ed Fowler, Tom Giffen and Dick Weeks for their years of dedication and hard work for the Conservation Committee. It was narrowed down to a Sunday in September. Ultimately the deciding factor will be the availability of the 3 people being honored. It was decided that a simple potluck with the Conservation Committee. There was a discussion of presenting plaques at the Town Meeting with the public present.

B. Kruse **motioned** to adjourn at 9:35. J. Lindsey **seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted

From tapes,

Sharon Carrier – Land Use Secretary