

Candia Conservation Commission
Approved
Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2009

Present: Chair Susan Wilderman, Betsy Kruse, Judi Lindsey, Joe Miele, Dennis Lewis, Richard Snow, Deb Levesque and Dave Ickes. Guests: Selectman Carleton Robie, Selectman Fred Kelley, Dan Kern, Jeff Littleton, Jack Munn and Walter and Pat Rand.

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Update on Sander Easement Language– Selectmen Carleton Robie and Fred Kelley reported that the Sander Trust granted permission for Nancy Randall from Blue Moon Environmental to conduct a wetlands evaluation on the property. C. Robie will follow up with Nancy Randall and keep Chair Wilderman informed of the process. He will contact Jim Franklin regarding the survey of the property and get a copy of the survey to Nancy.

Selectman Kelley reported that Board of Selectmen voted to support the Clay Pond Project at the previous nights BOS meeting.

SNHPC: Jack Munn reported on the Riparian Buffer Ordinance – Jack presented an overview of the study that was conducted two years ago with Deerfield. Most of the information is still valid for today. The study showed that 47% of the streams and rivers in Candia still had some natural upland forest or vegetative buffer adjacent to that body of water. There is a large amount of forested area that can and should be protected. Candia's existing ordinances for set backs (distance between a structure and resource; buffers protect the vegetative area) include good wetlands protection. It prohibits septic systems, leach fields and other waste disposal facilities within 75' of the edge of any wetland plus no building activity is permitted within 100' of any pond, flowing stream, or very poorly drained soil. The way the ordinance is currently written does have an inconsistency between the two set back requirements. It does not exclude septic systems etc. within the 100' building setback. He suggests the Conservation Commission make a recommendation to the Planning Board to correct this inconsistency. The Zoning Committee has scheduled a meeting for September 29th to discuss two ordinances: to come up with an aquifer groundwater protection overlay district to protect our aquifers and to update excavation regulations. This Riparian Buffer Study is not on the agenda to be discussed.

B. Kruse motioned that the Conservation Commission ask the Planning Board to consider the model ordinance from the Riparian Buffer study Jack Munn presented and to consider recommending it to the Zoning Revision Committee; seconded by J. Lindsey. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Walter and Pat Rand – Attended the meeting to discuss and explore the possibility of placing approximately 25 acres of their property on High Street into a conservation easement. This parcel of land is part of an un-fragmented block and includes a section that is designated by the state to be prime farmland and would be of great interest and of benefit to the state of NH. They are looking for a financial incentive to put the property in an easement and if the town were interested they would like to move ahead with this as soon as possible.

D. Snow motioned for the Conservation Commission to pursue the possibility of acquiring a conservation easement on the Rand property; seconded by D. Lewis. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NRI – Jeff Littleton reported on the NRI. Jeff is looking for the Commission's perspective, after reviewing his proposal, on how the process should unfold and what the timeline should be. Chair Wilderman reported that the commission had hoped to start with Phase I during the late fall/winter months with the hopes it would segway nicely into the wetlands study late next spring. During this period

the CCC hopes to secure funding (through grants) to enable the continuation of the study for Phase II through next summer. Jeff felt the first issue for the CCC would be to get the first Forum underway. The first Forum serves as an introduction to community and solicits local information from the community members. This leads to the mapping process, which would take place over the winter months. The second Forum would take place in the spring and would look at ranking natural resources in the town and allow the community to rank priorities for protection, wildlife habitat, wetlands function and values, prime agricultural soils, etc. This would be followed up with co-occurrence mapping with the final report in June along with a Public Information session. This allows for three forms of outreach: two community forums inviting the public to get involved in the process and then presenting the results. Jeff offered to write a press release and do other PR work for the Forum. It was decided the Conservation Commission would (tentatively) host the first Forum on November 5th at the town office. Planning for the Forum will be added to the October agenda. Jeff will send the NRI Study contract to Chair Wilderman for her to sign along with PR materials for the Forum once the date is confirmed.

Hooksett Headwaters Project (Clay Pond) – Dan Kern of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways reported:

- Clay Pond project. The purchase price proposed for the approximate 7 acres is \$5000.00. Bart Mayer is currently working on the easement in Hooksett and will pass it along to Dan Kern to do a separate easement using the same template. Note that because of funding sources there is an executory interest held by the state through LCHP and DES. There will be no mitigation language in this easement. Dan will send it to the CCC for review and D. Snow will present to the Board of Selectmen. **D. Snow motioned** for the Conservation Commission to encumber the amount of \$5000.00 from the conservation fund for the acquisition of the Gagne property (Map 404, Lot 83 & 84) subject to the review of the easement by the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen and the subsequent approval of the Board of Selectmen for the easement; seconded by B. Kruse. D. Snow abstained. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Bear-Paw is looking for a location for the November 19th Round Table, which will be held in two parts. The first night would possibly be in Candia with discussion about the importance of un-fragmented forest, riparian areas, and other topics. All Bear-Paw members, town boards that are in the Bear-Paw region, and community members will be invited to this workshop. The second part of the Round Table would be a discussion regarding regulatory ways of protecting these areas via zoning, buffer ordinances, etc. and will held in another town approximately two weeks later.
- Sander Easement –Nothing can move ahead until the mitigation issue is resolved.
- Dan and D. Snow will speak with the Rands regarding a possible conservation easement.

Regular Business

Minutes of August 18 were reviewed and the following revisions were made:

- p. 1, 3rd paragraph, revise “Watershed Association” to “Headwaters Nomination Committee”.

D. Lewis motioned to accept minutes as amended, seconded by D. Snow. Two abstained. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Wetlands Permit Applications – There was nothing new to report.

Land Use, Wetlands, Enforcement Issues, Planning Board – J. Lindsey reported that the Brown Road property owner returned but has new engineers working on a new plan. He will need to notify abutters that he is starting a new application. Issues and concerns regarding this property include water supply quality, driveway lengths, and odd shaped lots.

Correspondence – Chair Wilderman reported on the following:

- SNHPC - Natural Resources Advisory Committee recycling workshop on Sept 29th

- NHDES – Correspondence from Southeast Watershed Alliance – Conducting studies to determine source of watershed pollution. Responsibility for the pollution lies upstream of estuaries. Communities could become regulated for nutrient runoff. Meeting of Alliance to plan how to best manage the watershed is on Sept 29th at Nottingham town hall.

Budget Update/Approval of Outstanding Payments/Invoices – D. Snow reported that Chair Wilderman would present the budget of \$2,400.00 to the Budget Committee on Saturday.

Conservation Commission Website – There was nothing new to report.

Lamprey River Watershed Association – D. Snow reported that presentations and summaries from the conference “Your Water, Your Wallet, Your Watershed – Why Working Across Town Boundaries Makes Sense” is now available on-line.

Old Business

Conservation Land/Easement(s) Acquisition Status –

The Commission decided that D. Snow would contact C. Bowman to see if he is still interested in pursuing a conservation easement.

Bear-Paw Status Report – B. Kruse reported:

- Owl Prowl on Saturday night October 24th
- Hawk watch on October 10th

Forest Management Activities – D. Snow reported that he spoke with C. Moreno and they will be moving ahead with the plan.

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

Open Space Subcommittee – J. Lindsey reported that at Old Home Day she had an interesting conversation with a community member regarding what Open Space is.

Old Home Day – D. Snow is looking for the remaining “No Farmland, No Food” stickers.

Prime Wetlands Study/NRI – Nothing further to discuss.

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Other Business

D. Snow motioned to adjourn at 9:05, seconded by D. Lewis. All were in favor. Motion carried.