

## Brookfield Conservation Commission Minutes

November 10, 2010

Present: Tom Giguere, Tom Hill, Geary Ciccarone, John Nelson, Dulcie Lavender. Alternates; Jennifer McKown, Dick Peckham. Selectman's representative, Ernie Brown

1. The meeting was called to order at 18:00.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Minutes Review from October 6th, 2010: John made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Tom seconded, and the motion passed.
4. Mail:
  - A. Greenway Gazette. Dulcie highlighted some of the activities associated with the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways which publishes the Greenway Gazette.
  - B. A DES permit approval for timber harvest on Ernie Brown's land was reviewed.
5. Old Business:
  - A. Smith Gravel Pit. Concerns expressed about the gravel pit are as follows: slope steepness, storage of tree stumps, reclamation plan, and setback to property of abutters. The Code Enforcement Officer, Eddie Nason, discussed these concerns and stated that the Planning Board has oversight of gravel pits. Members of the public with concerns should bring them up at a Planning Board meeting. Geary conducted the last annual inspection of the gravel pit (on behalf of the Planning Board) in January, 2010. He will be scheduling the next visit soon and will inform the inspector of these concerns.
  - B. Tom submitted the Conservation Commission budget for 2011 and sent the results by email to the board members.
  - C. Tom submitted Conservation Commission input for the town newsletter and sent the results by email to the board members.
6. New Business:
  - A. Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership Assessment (PREPA) Great Bay update. John participated in an educational boat tour of Great Bay Estuary recently and reported on the situation at the Great Bay Estuary. Unfortunately the Great Bay Estuary is in decline. Nitrogen pollution from lawn fertilizers is contributing to rapid decline of key species in the Great Bay Estuary. Because of nitrogen pollution there has been a 64% decrease in eelgrass biomass from 1990-2008. Also, there has been a 92% decline in adult oyster populations from 1997-2009. There are two ways to reduce water pollution from lawn fertilizers: One is to stop using lawn fertilizers and the second way is to use

only slow-release-nitrogen, low-phosphorus fertilizers. Other ways to help are as follows: pump and maintain septic tanks, install a rain barrel to reduce run-off pollution, pick up pet waste, and have the UNH Cooperative Extension test soil for nitrogen levels to avoid unnecessary fertilizer and nutrient applications.

B. Membership update. Dick Peckham was welcomed as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission.

C. Rails to Trails. Dulcie mentioned that the Rails to Trails Group is looking for Brookfield members for help in this project.

7. Report from the Selectmen:

A. Ernie reported that phase one of the school district art center project is just about complete. The parking lots have been completed. A brief dedication ceremony will be held at 6:30 P.M., 17 Dec 2010. The first concert in the new facility will be held on 18 Dec 2010.

B. The Selectmen are working on the tax rate for the coming year. The State has one final round of calculations regarding the tax rate.

C. The Strafford County Regional Planning Board needs volunteer representatives.

8. Planning Board:

A. Geary reported that the Planning Board is working on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). They are currently writing a report defining the status of the assets of the town that will lead to recommendations for voter approval.

9. Next meeting: 1st December 2010 at 1800.

10. The meeting was closed at 19:50.

Respectfully submitted \_\_\_\_\_  
John Nelson

Minutes approved: \_\_\_\_\_