

Brookfield Conservation Commission Minutes

October 5th, 2011

Present: Tom Giguere, John Nelson, Dulcie Lavender. Alternates: Jen McKown, Dick Peckham. Selectmen's representative, Ernie Brown.

1. The meeting was called to order at 18:02.

2. Public Comments:

A. MMRG brief: Keith Fletcher, Director of Land Conservation for Moose Mountain Regional Greenways presented a review of MMRG's efforts including a recent 212 acre easement in Wakefield and the pending conservation easement on Moose Mountain. Also discussed was the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) offered by the National Resources Conservation Service which provides financial assistance to qualifying landowners. The WRP and other programs will be discussed at the "Your Land, Clean Water, Your Legacy" presentation by the Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative on Nov 9th in Rochester.

3. Minutes Review: Ernie made a motion to accept the Sept. minutes, John seconded, and the motion passed.

4. Mail:

A. DES File Number 2011-02396. The NH Dept of Environmental Services (DES) accepted a permit application for the replacement of a dock on Kingswood Lake.

B. There will be an annual meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) on Nov. 5th in Concord NH.

C. Great Bay Matters periodical concerning issues related to the Great Bay Estuary.

D. DES File Number 2011-02411. Reviewed copy of a DES letter sent to a Kingswood Lake resident requiring 2 feet of a porch addition be removed in accordance with DES guidelines.

E. "Taking Action for Wildlife" is a new program of NH Fish and Game and the UNH Cooperative Extension. This organization is inviting those interested in taking action for wildlife to a meeting at the Madison Public Library on Oct. 19th at 6:30PM to 8:00PM.

F. A copy of a Guide to NH Birds put out by the Audubon Society was reviewed and placed in the Town Office for public review. A copy is also on the town website.

5. Old Business:

A. Clean-up Day daffodil bulbs delivered. New Hampshire the Beautiful Organization gave out 400 bulbs to those communities involved in Earth Day town cleanup. Tom G reported the Brookfield Bloomers planted 60 bulbs at the Town House and 20 bulbs at the Churchill Triangle. He delivered the rest to those involved in the town cleanup and expressing interest for such bulbs.

B. New Website Update. Tom G. reported that we have submitted all Conservation Commission information to the new town website. It is scheduled to go live on November 1st.

C. Budget for 2012. The draft budget was discussed and approved. Tom G reported that the amount for workshops has been reduced but other expenditures are the same as last year. It will be submitted to the Selectmen.

D. Draft Annual Report for 2011. The draft report was reviewed and remains open for suggestions. It will be submitted to the Selectmen in December.

6. New Business:

A. Moose Mountain LLC conservation easement. The property owner is working with MMRG to put the upper 545 acres of land into a conservation easement in exchange for compensation. In September, MMRG submitted a grant application to the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) requesting financial assistance and asked the Selectmen for a letter of support. Tom G. drafted the attached letter and presented it at the September 13th Selectmen's meeting where it was discussed and signed.

B. Nov 9th Presentation by the Salmon Falls River Watershed Collaborative at the Governor's Inn in Rochester. The Forest Service recently projected that development pressure will cause the Salmon Falls watershed to suffer the greatest decline in water quality of any in the country. As discussed in Public Comments, financial aid may be available to land owners putting their land into conservation easements and will be discussed at this meeting. Tom G used a new Salmon Falls watershed map to generate a list of qualifying property owners which MMRG used to send invitations. Conservation Commission members are also invited and encouraged to attend.

7. Report from the Selectmen:

A. Ernie reported that the Trails Rails Action Committee (TRAC) committee is considering the installation of gravel between the rails from the Wakefield Diner to Clark Road.

B. The School Board will hold a meeting at the Town Office on October 19th at 7 PM.

8. Planning Board: None

9. Other Business

A. The Salmon Falls watershed map was presented.

10. Next meeting: 2 Nov 2011 at 1800.

11. The meeting was closed at 19:20.

Respectfully submitted _____
John Nelson

Minutes approved: _____