



OFFICE OF THE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET  
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## **Conservation Commission Minutes** **March 8, 2010**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by member Alan Chaney  
Members present: Jeff Haight, Bill Moeller, Judy Larter, Juan Amodei and Marilyn Pike  
Member absent: Leah Basbanes  
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall, lower level

### **Meeting Minutes of February 22nd**

Marilyn made a motion to approve the February 22nd meeting minutes, as written. Judy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed.

### **Bills**

The Secretary presented one invoice from Norse Design Services for the completion of the ANR for the Hardy Street (Carter) property (\$600). After discussion amongst members as to where the funds would be taken from, Bill made a motion to use the Christmas tree funds for the bill. Juan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. - Motion passed. Bill then made a motion to pay the invoice. Judy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. – Motion passed.

### **Town Accountant Letter on Invoices/Payroll**

The Commission discussed the letter from the Town Accountant on how future invoices should be handled. The Commission decided on the following: The Chair (currently Leah Basbanes) can sign invoices totaling up to \$300 outside of a meeting. The invoice will then be presented for review at the next meeting. All other invoices will be voted on at a meeting, with one member signing the actual invoice.

The Secretary brought up that the Town Accountant is looking for guidance as to how the Commission would like to review and sign the Secretary's payroll. After discussion, the Commission decided that the Secretary will submit the payroll to the Treasurer unsigned and the Commission will vote to sign the payroll at the next meeting. One member will sign the actual payroll slip. The Secretary will then forward the signed copy to the Town Accountant.

### **Benedict Walsh – Eagle Scout Project**

Mrs. Walsh and her son attended the meeting so that Benedict could propose an Eagle Scout project to the Commission. Benedict is interested in building bat boxes that he and the other scouts from Troop 28 would mount on trees on Conservation Commission property. Benedict had a power point presentation on white-nose syndrome which has been affecting bats in Massachusetts. The effects of the disease have resulted in a loss of many bats. Benedict also had a sample bat house made out of cedar that he showed Commission members. Bill suggested that he may want to look into using common white pine as an alternative since the cost would be far less than using cedar. The Commission told Benedict that the following areas would be great sites for bat houses: Amos Kendall, Howards Brook, Flat Rock Hill, Unkety Woods and the Pelletier property. The bat houses could be attached to trees on put on posts, 3-4 meters off the ground. The Commission asked Benedict to look into using a material other than metal nails for fastening the bat houses to trees. Metal nails can cause injury to tree cutters if the trees are



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eventually cut down. Benedict will price out the materials and decide how many bat houses he wants to build. At that time, he will return to find out where the Commission would like them placed.

#### **Update on the Carter Property**

The Commission asked the Secretary to find out the date of the passing of the Carter parcel.

#### **Wall – McGovern Farm Area – Main Street**

Leah attended the meeting regarding the wall at McGovern's Farm. Judy said that Leah indicated that the meeting went well and that the Highway Department was sympathetic to the concerns of the Historic Commission and the Conservation Commission.

#### **MassGIS Letter from John Matley**

John had sent a letter asking for input in determining how MassGIS can serve our region in the future. It was recommended that the Secretary ask Leah if she needs any help with the mapping of the Open Space and Recreation plan.

#### **Special Municipal Employee**

The Commission received a letter from the Town Accountant regarding Special Municipal Employee status for Bob Bacon so he can mow Conservation properties. One of the Road Commissioners was planning on attending the Selectmen's meeting to discuss this option. The Commission asked the Secretary to report back with the results of that meeting.

#### **Open Space and Recreation Plan**

The Commission asked the Secretary to see if the state has a survey that can be sent out on the Open Space and Recreation plan. The Commission reviewed and updated Section 9 – Five Year Action Plan.

#### **Gary Gouldrup**

Alan reported that the timber market is coming back pretty strong. Alan will sign the timber cutting contract for the Farnsworth property which will go out to bid in the spring/summer.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> - Motion passed. The next scheduled meeting for the Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm, downstairs at the Dunstable Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann  
Secretary – Dunstable Conservation Commission