



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
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Conservation Commission Minutes **January 10, 2011**

Meeting was called to order at 7:33pm by Vice Chair, Marilyn Pike
Members present: Alan Chaney, Leah Basbanes (7:42pm), Juan Amodei, Bill Moeller, Judy Larter and Jeff Haight
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall – lower level

Patrick Murphy – 74 Groton Street – Spaulding Proctor Reservation

Mr. Murphy attended the December 13th meeting (and sent a letter dated December 23rd) to speak to the Commission about a potential parking area at the Spaulding Proctor Reservation on Groton Street. The Commission recently enlarged the entrance to allow trucks access for foresting purposes. Mr. Murphy said that during a previous conversation with Alan and Bill, they indicated that the Commission may want an area for parking to keep cars off Groton Street. Mr. Murphy said that he and his neighbor have concerns about creating a parking area for vehicles. He went on to say that visitors to Spaulding Proctor can continue to use the parking lot at Larter Field. He also said that he does not want the value of his property being affected with parking lots on both sides of his land. Alan informed Mr. Murphy that the Commission decided to move the entrance, which is partly on Mr. Murphy's property, to avoid any conflicts with future homeowners. The Commission understood Mr. Murphy's concerns and discussed installing a new sign identifying Spaulding Proctor as well as laying logs at the entrance to keep cars from driving down the access road. Mr. Mungovan (Mr. Murphy's neighbor) arrived at the end of the meeting in support of not putting a parking area at Spaulding Proctor.

Cara Sanford – Forest Legacy Program

Ms. Sanford attended the meeting to discuss the Forest Legacy Program. Cara, an Americore representative, is working out of the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) office with Al Futterman. She went on to explain that the Forest Legacy Program, which falls under the USDA Farm Bill, is a federally funded 75% cost-share program that pays to conserve private forestland either through a Conservation Restriction or purchase of land (in fee simple). The western edge of Dunstable falls into the Forest Legacy Program boundary as well as areas of Pepperell, Lancaster, Townsend, Ayer, Shirley, Harvard and Groton. The NRWA would like to submit a grant application to the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation for consideration. In order for the project to be considered, multiple landowners spread over several towns with a combined one thousand acres would need to be part of the application. A governmental entity must hold Conservation Restrictions, and a Forest Stewardship Plan must be completed and updated every ten years. The program is totally voluntary. The NRWA is looking to submit a proposal in September 2011, with the process taking 2-3 years. Bill asked who will be contacting the landowners. Cara said "someone local" such as the Conservation



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Commission as they are familiar with the residents. Cara and the NRWA will be involved in educating the landowner and assisting with the forms.

Diana Dalida and Bob Iryzk– Trails

Diana passed out draft trail maps of three areas in Dunstable seeking Commission member's opinions on changes that need to be made. She also passed out a draft disclaimer taken from a local town for their review. The Commission would like Attorney Larkin's opinion on the disclaimer.

Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2010

Marilyn made a motion to approve, as submitted, the minutes from the December 13th meeting. Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Bills/Payroll

One bill for \$10.00 was signed as well as two payroll slips for the Secretary.

Open Space & Recreation Plan

The Secretary handed out a copy of the letter from Melissa Cryan (dated December 22, 2010) which gave contingent approval of the 7-year Open Space and Recreation Plan, as long as changes she is requesting are made. The Secretary asked for the Commission's help in assembling the information for the changes. This will be done over the next month.

Christmas Tree Sale

The Secretary reported that the tree sale was very successful. The Commission made a total of \$1,720.00 in the two weeks, which will be used for Conservation purposes.

Enforcement Order - 130 Hardy Street – Allison

No update

Sweet Restoration

No update

Discharge of Firearms/Hunting

Alan wrote the following for the Commission's review: *One sometimes hears that Dunstable is "closed to hunting". This is not the case. Dunstable does have a "discharge of firearms" bylaw. One must have the written permission of the landowner in order to discharge a firearm. As a matter of practice, neither the Town, nor the Dunstable Rural Land Trust grant such permission for land they control. Bow hunting and fishing are permitted unless the landowner's property is posted. State property (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife) is governed by separate rules; check their website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/>*



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Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

The Secretary presented, and the Commission approved, the fiscal year 2012.

2010 Annual Report

Commission members reviewed the draft of the 2010 Annual Report. Alan will stop by the office tomorrow to go over the approved changes before it is submitted to Danice.

Motion made to close the meeting at 9:18pm. Motion 2nd. – Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Dunstable Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, January 24, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary
Dunstable Conservation Commission