



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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Conservation Commission Minutes **March 28, 2011**

Meeting was called to order at 7:34pm by member, Alan Chaney
Members present: Juan Amodei, Marilyn Pike, Bill Moeller and Judy Larter
Members absent: Leah Basbanes and Jeff Haight
Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall – lower level – Grange Room

Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2011

Marilyn made a motion to approve, with noted spelling change, the minutes from the March 14th meeting. Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Bills/Payroll

Bill made a motion to sign the bills (Groton Herald & Office Supplies) and Secretary's payroll. Marilyn 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Open Space & Recreation Plan

The changes to the Open Space and Recreation plan should be completed by the next meeting.

Karl Huber – Water Department Chairman

Karl asked to address the Commission with the intent of giving members an opportunity to express their thoughts regarding a Warrant Article to look into the feasibility of providing, by sale, water to the Town of Tyngsboro. This article will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) on May 9, 2011. The Tyngsboro Water Department is in need of an additional water source, while the Dunstable Water Department is in need of additional funding. Karl told members that no commitment has been made by either side, and he was addressing some of the Boards/Commissions before ATM to open the lines of communication and to gather support for this fact finding mission. Karl said that he attended the Tyngsboro Water meeting on March 1st and updated the Dunstable Board of Selectmen on March 14th. Both water departments would like to investigate the issues surrounding Tyngsboro being a water customer versus a partner (i.e. we could use their resources - storage tank to provide backflow pressure to Dunstable). Karl explained that the Water Department's revenue has not been keeping up with the financial burden of running a municipal water department. Also, there are some repairs that may need to be made in the near future that could financially cripple the Department, potentially forcing the Commissioners to turn to the town for financial relief. For example: leaking of our water mains and/or problems with our aging pump at well #1 and hydropneumatic tanks on Pond Street. Bill expressed some concerns: potential implications to our 2 acre zoning and being obligated to supply endless amounts of water to another town without any control, as well as others. Karl said that this was why opening the lines of communication was so important. As the two towns



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look to see whether or not this is feasible, Karl said that the Water Commissioners welcome the Commission and others in town to come forward to have their concerns addressed as well as help with the process.

Selectman Ken Leva – Woodward Mill Dam Report

Selectmen Leva attended the meeting at the request of the Commission to discuss Bill's inquiry into the inspection report of the Woodward Mill Dam. [At the direction of the State, the Town retained a company (Haley and Aldrich) to perform an inspection of the Woodward Mill Dam in early 2010.] Bill reported that he had spoken to Denis Bell (Haley and Aldrich) and asked if he was aware of the repair done by the State in the 1980's since it was not listed in his report. Mr. Bell had said he was unaware that Mass DPW reconstructed portions of the dam and spillway while making repairs to Pleasant Street back in 1985. His report was based only on a visual inspection. Bill said that Mr. Bell repeated to him what was written in the report that he had judged the dam to be in "satisfactory condition" and therefore not in immediate need of any action. And while it was also stated in the report that the upstream wall should be mortared, Mr. Bell had been totally unaware of the design and construction of the upstream wall as shown on the project plans. Conservation had requested and the designer of the project had provided for placement of the stones that are visible. The designers apparently had included the specifications for the fastening of the visible stones onto the structural wall such that there had been no need for mortaring as Mr. Bell's visual inspection had presumed. And, while the downstream wall should be repaired (approximate cost \$25,000), Mr. Bell stated, as it is written in his report, that there is not an immediate or structurally significant need for action at this time. The Commission feels that the State should take some responsibility for the repair of the wall that they had authorized and the construction of which they had reviewed and approved as part of the project. Ken will report back to the Selectmen for further instruction.

Sweet Restoration Plan – Sweet's Pond Road

The Secretary handed out a copy of an e-mail from David Keddell (Army Corp of Engineers) regarding the progress of the Sweet Restoration plan.

Vote of Commission from February 28th

At our meeting on February 28th, the Commission voted to utilize Robert Bacon from the Highway Department as part time help for Conservation Commission projects. The Town Clerk requested that Commission members sign the letter. Bill made a motion for Commission members to sign the letter, July 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Review-Wages/Secretary

The Secretary asked to address the Commission to request that her hourly rate be brought more in line with other clerical employees of the town (plus whatever the Finance Committee recommends for an employee increase, i.e. 3% last year), to start on July 1, 2011. The funds for



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the increase already exist in the Conservation Commission clerical budget, so no additional burden would be placed on the budget. The reason for the request is that she takes on extra duties and attends classes outside of work hours to increase her knowledge of changing regulations/laws. A list was submitted detailing these tasks and programs attended. After discussion, motion was made to pay the Secretary the same rate as another clerical employee (\$18.25) plus whatever percentage is voted for wage increases at Annual Town Meeting. This will be effective on July 1, 2011. Motion was 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Special Permit Filing – Charles Rich – 880 Main Street (was part of 874) backland lot

The Secretary handed out a copy of the Special Permit filing for 880 Main Street. The hearing is scheduled for April 19th. The Commission will address this at the next meeting.

Eagle Scout Project – Alex Webb – Blanchard Area

Members met members of the Webb family out at the site on Sunday, March 27th at 10:00am to discuss a potential Eagle Scout project for Alex Webb. The project will entail a significant amount of clearing in order to connect the trail on the back side of Blanchard Hill to existing trails. Alex will return in late April or beginning of May with a specific plan for the project.

TWS Graphics - David Guay - Signs

Judy placed a phone call to David Guay regarding signs the Commission ordered, however, he was unavailable.

Conservation Commission Meeting – Monday, March 28th - 8:00am-9:00am

Alan Chaney, Judy Larter and Cheryl Mann attended the Conservation Commission meeting at the Nashua River Watershed Association to meet Conservation members from Shirley, Pepperell, Townsend and Groton. Groups broke out to discuss “Land Management” and “Bylaws”. Judy mentioned that while there, she had an opportunity to glance at a Land Management book from a nearby town. Bill said that it may be possible for students from the SLICE program at UMass-Lowell to assist with this type of project. He suggested contacting Linda Barrington for more information.

Motion made to close the meeting at 9:02pm. Motion 2nd.–Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Dunstable Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7:30pm. The public meeting on the Regulations and Fines for Conservation properties will be held that night.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary
Dunstable Conservation Commission