



OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
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Conservation Commission Minutes **April 11, 2011**

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

7:30pm - Public Meeting-Town of Dunstable's Conservation Land and Open Space Regulations and Fine Schedule

Attendees: none

Leah opened the public meeting to discuss the "Town of Dunstable's Conservation Land and Open Space Regulations and Fine Schedule". Attorney Larkin forwarded some suggested changes and comments. The Commission addressed them one at a time:

- 1) No motorized vehicles are permitted on Conservation lands with the exception of public safety vehicles such as Police and Fire department vehicles for emergency purposes and for enforcement of these Rules, ***and vehicles on the premises for maintenance or similar purposes under the supervision of the Conservation Commission.*** (\$250 fine)

Alan made a motion to edit regulation #1 to include the addition as provided by Town Counsel. Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

- 2) No fires permitted without written approval of the Conservation Commission and the Fire Department. (\$100 fine) **Comment:** *[This rule requires written permission of both departments. Is written permission of the Fire Department a likelihood? This may put an unnecessary burden on the Fire Department. In my town, when you get a burning permit, nothing in writing is provided, it is merely logged in.]*

Alan made a motion to remove "and the Fire Department". Jeff 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. Members agreed that, as a practice, the Conservation Commission will notify the Fire Department if an application is considered for a fire on Conservation Commission property.

Motion was then made to increase the fine from \$100 to \$250. Motion 2nd. –Motion passed unanimously.

- 4) No use of power tools is permitted on Conservation lands except by Conservation Commission workers/agents acting to restore or improve facilities, including trails, according to directions issued by the Conservation Commission for such activity. (\$100 fine) **Comment:** *[This seems overly*



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specific. It is conceivable that the use of power tools might be deemed necessary on premises without any of the named purposes coming into play. Isn't it enough merely to authorize power tools if the ConsCom has authorized them?]

Alan made a motion to remove everything after the word "lands" and add in its place "unless authorized by the Conservation Commission. (\$100 fine) Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

18) Parking shall only be in designated areas and during times when lands are open to access according to posted schedules. (\$25.00)

Alan made a motion to edit regulation #18 to include the addition as provided by Town Counsel. Marilyn 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Bill then moved to approve the "Town of Dunstable's Conservation Land and Open Space Regulations and Fine Schedule – effective April 11, 2011 with noted amendments. Alan 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

37 Lower Dam Way – Barbara Blanco/35 Lower Dam Way – Linda Scully – tree removal

Ms. Blanco attended the meeting and brought her neighbor as both parties are interested in removing trees from their properties on Lower Dam Way. Ms. Scully said that during the last storm, one of her trees fell onto her house deck. Both properties are located on Lake Massapoag. The Commission decided that they needed to see which trees the homeowners would like to remove. A site visit was scheduled for Saturday, April 16th at 10:00am.

Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2011

Marilyn made a motion to approve (with Bill's edits) the minutes from the March 28th meeting. Bill 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Review and Bills and Payroll

No bills were presented. One payroll slip for the Secretary was signed off. To date, the Commission has spent \$986.49 from their expense account.

Howard's Brook Conservation Area

Leah brought up that she had been cleaning up the Howard's Brook Conservation Area and that a small dumpster is needed to haul away some materials left on the property. Alan made a motion to ask the Board of Health to authorize that one of their dumpsters be brought to the site.

Marilyn 2nd the motion. – Motion passed unanimously. Leah will attend the Board of Health meeting the following week.



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Open Space & Recreation Plan

Alan and Leah will provide changes to the Secretary within the next week so the final plan can be forwarded to the State.

Unique features: The Commission came up with the following unique features that Leah will incorporate into a plan of the town: Unkety Brook (cold water trout stream/Blandings turtle habitat), Hawk Swamp (black spruce bog), Amos Kendall cranberry bog, Blanchard Hill, Woodward Mill Pond, Glacial topography along Salmon Brook such as kane terraces, kettle holes and eskers.

Timber Cuts

Alan updated the Commission saying that the timber will be removed from the Farnsworth property soon. The 2nd payment for the Spaulding Proctor operation should be sent to the Commission soon.

Beagle Club Article

Alan mentioned that the Selectmen were presenting an article at the Annual Town Meeting to sell the 6 acre Beagle Club parcel on Depot Street to Fish and Game for \$22,000. There are 3 dry acres as well as 3 acres of wetlands. Alan explained that although the town paid more for the property in the 1980's, at the time, it was sold as a building lot. Today, the town would never sell the lot as a buildable lot; therefore, the property is worth the same as backland property which is approximately \$22,000 for the 6 acres.

Motion made to close the meeting at 8:20pm. Motion 2nd.– Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Dunstable Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, April 25, 2011 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Mann
Secretary
Dunstable Conservation Commission