

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2009
DPW – 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Joan Fishman, Gary Gaudette, Shirley Green, Sue Hagerman, Fred Paradis, Alan Strickland (Chair), Jeff Wells

Excused: Don Crate (Selectman), Dwight Marchetti

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

1. REVIEW OF DECEMBER MINUTES:

It was moved by GREEN, seconded by FISHMAN, to approve the minutes of 12/04/08 as amended. The Motion carried.

2. FRED PARADISE RESIGNATION / NEW MEMBER:

PARADIS announced his resignation, advising that the current meeting will be his last with the Commission. After serving 6 years, PARADIS is going to pursue personal interests. PARADIS spoke favorably of the direction the Commission is going. With great sorrow and disappointment, the Commission accepted his resignation.

WELLS will seek full-member appointment by the Board of Selectmen.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Distribution of Magazines

Copies of “Northern Woodlands” were distributed.

Inform of Town Report / Stationery / Conservation T-Shirts

The Town Report is complete and includes a picture of the boardwalk and an annual narrative on the Commission’s activities authored by STRICKLAND.

Stationery and envelopes bearing the Commission name and mailing address were displayed.

STRICKLAND proposed printing Conservation Commission t-shirts for the members’ private use. STRICKLAND offered to cover the expenses. STRICKLAND will provide logo proposals at the next meeting.

4. BUDGET INFORMATION (CURRENT BALANCE & CONSERVATION FUND):

HAGERMAN will present her budget research at the next meeting.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

Scheduled for March meeting an expose on clear-cutting by Jeff Wells & Alan Strickland

WELLS and STRICKLAND will present an expose of general information on clear-cutting to lay out the facts and look at clear-cutting from a professional standpoint.

A suggestion was made to publicize the presentation and invite the public.

6. DISCUSSION: IDEAS, GOALS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2009 YEAR

STRICKLAND asked the members to consider ideas, goals and projects for 2009. GREEN suggested partnering with the Town to accomplish as many of the action items the Commission identified previously. She suggested seeking funding for the rain garden projects pegged for the youth group. STRICKLAND advised of Town Manager Schneider's remarks to him regarding budgetary challenges. There may not be funding for the Commission to conduct many of the action items. GREEN suggested some of the items would save the Town money.

7. CORRESPONDENCE / UPDATES:

Email from Dwight Marchetti

STRICKLAND said Marchetti sends his greetings from Florida.

DES – Bill Warren:

The site visit has been approved.

NH Dept of Transportation – Route 4-A

The Highway Department is going to dig out a portion of Route 4A, by Proctor's Store. The work will begin soon and continue for 8 weeks.

DES – Shaker Land Condominium Association: Dredge & Fill Permit for Mascoma Lake:

LCA's State-approved application was circulated. It was noted that the Commission does not have input on State Dredge & Fill applications. The project is to replenish the sand on the beach.

8. INTENT TO CUT:

Follow up Map 15, Lot 84 – 1a (along side of Mascoma River), talked with Jim Taylor
There was no discussion on this application.

Map 7 / Lot 9 & 5-b (firewood for Baker)

This project is on Smith Pond. STRICKLAND stated it was “not a big deal”.

Map 1 / Lot 3 (Bog Rd, Crate)

Crate proposes taking out 10,000 board feet in a prime wetland on Bog Road.

Map 3 / Lot 10 & Map 7 / Lots 5a, 5b & 9 (Smith Pond, Cavacchi)

This project will be starting up again.

Map 13 / Lot 26-001, 002 & Map 17 / Lot 22 (Spectacle Pond, SPNHF)

The Commission received a letter from DES stating that the applicant could begin work provided they do not work within 100’ of a prime wetland, bog or marsh. The project’s forester responded to the State saying they will be working within a wetland. STRICKLAND displayed the State’s response to the wetland intrusion.

STRICKLAND recommended notifying Jim Taylor about the Smith Pond and Bog Road projects relative to wetlands in those areas and the lack of foresters’ involvement in those projects.

Concerns were raised about the Town’s lack of specific knowledge of these projects. There is no verification of the amount of timber cut. Everything is based on the honor system. It was reported that Jim Taylor had suggested drafting a warrant article to address the matter. STRICKLAND asked for ideas how the Town could monitor the volume cut. GREEN suggested researching how other local municipalities address cutting. WELLS agreed to contact Hanover and Lebanon. WELLS further suggested that monitoring could be accomplished via scaling loads and/or utilizing trip tickets. STRICKLAND questioned how the Town could monitor clearing on private property. WELLS said concerns could be communicated to the State to investigate.

WELLS shared his experience in Vermont and New York as to regulation/review of clear-cutting. There, private landowners are required to hire foresters to create management plans, indicating what areas would be cut and when. Approved schedules are sought and waivers are required to deviate from the schedule.

Map 5 / Lot 7 (Palmer Rd, Paine)

There was no discussion on this project.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

Shaker Bridge Land Park: Improve trail connecting the Rail Trail plus signage

STRICKLAND reported that Marchetti likes the trail that was put in and wants to see it continue. STRICKLAND proposed a spring project on the Brown property to do stonework along 20' of wet area.

STRICKLAND proposed a new site around the bend from original site. The new site is flat and the river area is calmer.

STRICKLAND said Town Manager Schneider will be meeting with the State to discuss the State land along the Rail Trail (the site of the old Shaker Motel property). Schneider requested input from the Commission on how the park should proceed. STRICKLAND said Schneider is concerned about kids loitering in the park and has questioned whether the picnic table should be returned and if the park should be advertised. GREEN questioned liability issues. PARADIS reported that grown-ups hang out there, not kids. He said the area could use increased police patrols.

The Commission agreed to ask Schneider to meet with them to discuss the park and his findings after meeting with the State.

10. CITIZENS FORUM / ABSENTEE EMBERS COMMENTS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS: SCA (Student Conservation Association) to do trail project?

SCA is based in Charlestown, NH. It is unclear whether they are hired to conduct specific projects or whether they approach towns with project proposals. Inner-city kids are paid to camp out 4 – 6 weeks to complete the projects.

WELLS offered to contact a Hanover teacher about local student conservation commission activities.

12. ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rivard, Secretary

Enfield Conservation Commission

P.O. Box 373, Enfield, New Hampshire 03748

December 15, 2008

Troop 44
Scout Master Mr. Picard
162 Jones Hill Rd.
Enfield, Nh
03748

To Members of Troop 44

Thank You for Your Commitment to the Enfield Community!

The Enfield Conservation Commission would like to express our sincere appreciation for your commitment to improving the Colette/Bicknell Brook Trail. The Bicknell Brook riparian area is a unique ecological asset for the Town of Enfield. The footbridge and board walk observation platform has provided hikers with a safer and more aesthetically pleasing hiking experience. At the same time it has lessened the environmental impact by providing two secure crossings over this important wetland.

In this day and age it is very refreshing to see young men of character step up to the plate and serve their community with hard work and vision. We wish you all the best of luck in the future and would like to extend an invitation to cooperate with you on any future endeavors.

Sincerely

Jeffrey Wells
Alan Strickland
Sue Hagerman
Gary Gaudette

Steve Schneider
Fred Paradis
Dwight Marchetti

Shirley Green
Don Crate
Joan Fishman