

10/01/09

Minutes from the Enfield Conservation Commission October meeting

7:00 PM the meeting is called to order.

Present: Joan Fishman, Gary Gaudette, Shirley Green, Dwight Marchetti, Fred Paradis, and Alan Strickland

Absent: Jeff and Susan Wells (family visitation), Sue Hagerman (illness)

Corrections to September minutes

Boy Scouts capitalized / Town compiles results should be stricken / Dollar amount to be given to Northern Rail Trail is \$350. A motion by Dwight, seconded by Gary, was made to pass on corrections until November meeting. Motion passes.

Information was given to conservation members about the upcoming Eastman Symposium, Oct. 11, 2009. Alan and Jeff will be doing a power point presentation on the current and past highlights of Enfield Conservation Commission.

Follow up: Alan talked with Carol Fahey on 10/01/09 regarding the use of a portion of the Suky Marsh Trail on her property. She said that there is no problem and that use can continue as stipulated by previous owner Mary Lou Bryant.

Dwight dealt with the potentially dangerous dead branches hanging over portions on the Suky Marsh Trail. But there was confusion as to who is responsible to fix bridges on the Suky Marsh Trail. Dwight will clarify with Steve Schnieder.

Mud Pond: Alan called Paul Currier on 10/01/09 to discuss his role in repairing Mud Pond Rd. It is Mr. Currier's intention to spread woodchips from the town's stock pile onto the surface of Mud Pond Road. Alan was unable to talk directly with Mr. Currier about using equipment to fix some of the drainage problems. At the very least, Dwight and Alan will meet next week to fix the major source of silt going into the Mud Pond wetlands. The rest of the repairs will be addressed later.

Driscoll Letter: A motion was made by Dwight and seconded by Gary to send the letter composed by Steve Schneider to DES. Motion passes. Alan will meet with Steve and sign it for the commission.

Frog Pond: No action has been taken to the commissions' knowledge. The commission wanted some testing done on water quality and also to see if the site is a source for mosquito breeding. Alan will talk with Steve.

Citizen's forum: Henry Cross spoke on his displeasure about the 'big dig'. He feels the silt in the lake now is worse than before and has numerous pictures to prove it. He expressed his frustration with DES, the conservation commission, and town officials.

Correspondence: A DES letter was sent to Don & Medora MacMeekin, Map#26 Lot#25 on Shaker Blvd., acknowledging a receipt for a Shoreland Permit.

Intent to Cut: NONE

New Business:

Bicknell Park: Rob Godfrey has completed the bush hogging on the site near the Colette Trailhead. The results are outstanding. The site located just behind the trailhead of the Colette Trail on Grafton Pond Road looks beautiful. Alan met with Steve Schneider 9/30/09 at 11:00 AM to look at the site. Steve was in agreement that the site looked good. At that time Alan asked Steve if the town could level a pile of fill in the meadow area. Also, Alan asked if the town could send in a chipper. Young trees that have started to invade the field. Alan would like to cut undesirable trees and thin out others, creating a pile of trees that would need to be chipped.

Steve will look into using town resources to accomplish this.

The purpose of the bush hogging, grading, and thinning of trees is to create a new trail entrance to the Colette Trail. The new entrance would be more scenic and a more natural way to enter the property. The fields would also create a more diverse wildlife population. The existing trail into the property now has the full view of a house that has been built after the establishment of the trail.

Dwight recommended that new signage at the trailhead be installed to avoid confusion as to the beginning of the Colette Trail.

A motion by Dwight and seconded by Gary was made to write a letter of thanks to Rob Godfrey. Motion passes. Alan will write the letter.

Cole Pond Estates: Alan expressed concern over the transformed character of the Cole Pond Trailhead, which is now in full view of a proposed subdivision just across Bog Road. Alan proposed to write a letter to Jim Taylor stating the commissions' concern about the visual impact of the proposed subdivision to the trailhead. It was suggest that this discussion be tabled until the November meeting so that all members could visit the

trailhead and proposed subdivision. It was also suggested that Jim Taylor come to the meeting and explain what would be an appropriate response for the commission.

Watershed ordinances: At the last selectmen's meeting, Don Crate suggested that the conservation commission look into providing the town with consistent environmental policies regarding regulations. Acting on this suggestion, Dwight talked about the need for the town officials, the building and zoning and planning inspectors, and town manager to work in harmony to protect the community from violations that are harmful to the environment. Dwight expressed a desire for the town of Enfield to have its own watershed ordinances with enforcement coming from within the town. Permits would still need to be obtained DES, but the town's ordinances could be stricter than DES. The advantage is that the town would have its own enforcement procedure and not be dependent on DES who often do not enforce or do so arbitrarily. Shirley cited many examples and has copies of watershed ordinances from other communities. Dwight would like the commission to begin taking the first steps toward town regulated ordinances and enforcement where all levels of local government would work in harmony. Shirley offered to contact Joe xxxx from the Pleasant Lake Association to come to the November meeting and discuss how to get started.

Motion to adjourn by Dwight, seconded by Gary at 8:35 PM. Motion passes.

Minutes taken and submitted by Alan Strickland