

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 6, 2008
DPW – 7:00 PM**

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

Excused: Don Crate (Selectman), Gary Gaudette, Dwight Marchetti

Staff: Steve Schneider

Guests: Gunther Frankenstein, Kurt Goddard

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

1. FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF BETH RIVARD

It was moved by FISHMAN, seconded by GREEN, to hire Beth Rivard to take minutes at a rate of \$18.00/hour. The Motion carried.

2. REVIEW OF OCTOBER MINUTES

It was moved by GREEN, seconded by HAGERMAN, to accept the minutes of October 2008 as amended. The Motion carried.

3. BUDGET INFORMATION

The Conservation Commission General Operating Budget balance is \$931.60. HAGERMAN was asked to research how funds are deposited into the Conservation Fund, spending restrictions, and who tracks the spending. She will report her findings to the Commission in December.

4. TRAIL MAINTENANCE MOTION

The Commission is interested in developing a formal maintenance plan for town-owned trails. Maintenance is currently performed on a volunteer basis. Commission members expressed concern for liability issues which may result if a formal plan is adopted. They also questioned which trails they are responsible for.

STRICKLAND spoke about a 1987 written agreement between the State and Enfield Conservation Commission which outlined various areas the Commission was responsible for

maintaining. "Maintenance" included informing trail users of use, restrictions, etc. of various trails. The written agreement expired 1997.

It was moved by HAGERMAN, seconded by PARADIS, to research to define the trails for which the Commission is truly responsible for in terms of maintenance and upkeep. The Motion carried.

STRICKLAND will research the status of Cole Pond Trail and report his findings to the Commission in December.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Gunther Frankenstein in Recognition of & Publicity for Scouts & Trail:

The Commission voted previously to fund \$250 of the Scout's boardwalk project on Colette Trail. Mr. Frankenstein was asked to provide an invoice to the Town for payment processing.

Mr. Frankenstein explained in detail and shared photographs of the walkway and pedestrian bridge projects his grandson, Ian Gagnon, and the Scouts of Troop 44 in Enfield constructed over the summer. He suggested the Town contact the local newspaper(s) and post signs at the walkway and bridge areas acknowledging the Scouts' efforts. HAGERMAN agreed to contact the Valley News. GREEN agreed to submit a picture for publication in the Town Report. PARADIS spoke in favor of creating a sign for the bridge in recognition of the Scouts' efforts.

Mr. Frankenstein said Bob Drape had agreed to pick up the tab for whatever costs his grandson was not able to cover. Mr. Drape's son, Mike, agreed to honor his father's agreement, following his death. Mr. Frankenstein reported that the walkway was paid in full.

Mr. Frankenstein suggested the Commission come up with a list of community-oriented projects for the Scouts to consider in the future.

It was moved by WELLS, seconded by GREEN, to make a letter of recommendation to the Scouts. The Motion carried. WELLS offered to draft the letter and present it to the Commission in December.

Kurt Godhart Trails Map:

Mr. Godhart appeared before the Commission to request funding for a proposed trails map. The premise was to update any current mapping, modify some of the trails, change trail names (to names of Shaker Elders), and add topographical details. He displayed a large plan which depicted the overall scheme. It included all town-owned trails and areas where legal public access cannot be denied, including Class VI Roads. Mr. Godhart said the NH Fish &

Game Department requested the use of specific language on the map with respect to the trails on their property in Enfield. *“Trails not formally maintained”* will be included.

Mr. Godhart suggested a booklet could accompany the map which would make updating information much easier. The booklet would also outline trail descriptions. He recommended the Town use the revenue from the booklet sales to cover future printing costs.

The Commission members spoke in opposition of the inclusion Class VI Roads and of the Shaker Mountain area on the map. Statements were made that the trails are hardly recognizable after logging. The area was also susceptible to change due to the State’s logging cycle. Concern was also expressed for the proposed map title, “Town of Enfield Trail Network” and whether that implied maintenance and reliability. The Commission members said they would support a map with Cole Pond Trail, Suki Marsh, Bicknell Brook Trail, the Rail Trail, and possibly the Smith Pond Trail if text was added relative to its status as being on private property.

Mr. Godhart said the map legend would explain that not all trails would be maintained. He said he would not do the project if the Shaker Mountain area was eliminated. He argued it was an important area of public lands.

The Commission reached consensus to respectfully decline financial support to this trails project. The members agreed they are not interested in supporting a map that shows trails that could change or advertising trails that are not maintained.

6. CORRESPONDENCE / UPDATES

Smith Pond Dam Rehabilitation Project:

The project was shut down by the Fish & Game Department for the year due to permitting issues. NH DES visited the site recently and confirmed that more hay bales should have been used. When the project is complete, the Town will take ownership of dam and be responsible for the annual inspections. There could be an agreement with adjacent landowners to provide public access (easements). The project is being done to maintain the area as a pond instead of a marshy wetland.

7. INTENT TO CUT

Applications for Intent to Cut were turned over to WELLS to review. One application involves logging near a prime wetland. WELLS was asked to speak to Jim Taylor about possible river erosion issues with that application. WELLS will report back to the Commission in December.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Brown Property: The Commission agreed to invite staff from the UVLT to meet with them to discuss the Brown property.

Report on Crystal Lake: The Commission discussed the Crystal Lake road drainage project. STRICKLAND asked the members to visit the project as viewed from road.

9. CITIZENS FORUM

MARCHETTI: Need for signage on Shaker Bridge Landing, not in favor of Shaker hill skid roads on map.

10. NEW BUSINESS – SCA (Student Conservation Association) to do a trail project?

Discussion was deferred to the December meeting.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rivard, Secretary

ATTACHMENT:

10/3/08

To: Steve Schneider, Enfield Town Manager & Selectmen
From: Enfield Conservation Commission
Re: Shaker Bridge Landing & Sailing Club

Dear Steve:

Representatives of the Shaker Village Sailing Club attended the 10/02/08 Conservation Commission meeting so that this past summer's use of the Shaker Bridge Landing Park could be evaluated. The Conservation Commissioners agreed that the Sailing Club fulfilled all of its commitments to the Conservation Commission and the town. All members of the Commission expressed satisfaction with the Club's use of the Shaker Bridge Landing Park. The steady presence of Shaker Village Sailing Club gave the Park a welcoming ambiance. Club members reported seeing hikers accessing the rail trail, families picnicking, kayaks being launched, and fishermen fishing from the shore.

Additional improvements to the Park were discussed. These ideas include extending the mowed area along the water's edge to decrease (particularly for fishermen) congestion, increasing the number of picnic tables and benches, and adding a sign pointing to the rail trail. The Commission was in favor of all of these recommendations. The Club asked permission to allow the support posts for the shed to stay in place through the winter. The club said the posts would be well flagged for visibility. The Commission thought it to be acceptable to leave the post over the winter, but the final decision would be up to the town.

In summary, the Commission is very happy to have the Sailing Club use the Shaker Bridge Landing Park until the Shaker Bridge is replaced.

Alan Strickland,

Chairman, Enfield Conservation Commission