

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, February 9, 2011  
356 Main Street, Farmington, NH**

**Committee Members Present:** Dave Connolly, Art LeClair and Jim Horgan

**Committee Members Absent:** Jon Wood (excused), Kristie Holtz (excused) and Randy Orvis

**Selectmen's Representative:** Gerry McCarthy

**Public Present:** Neil Johnson, John Adams, John Scruton, Anna Boudreau, Don Whittum, Barry Elliot, Fred Cameron and Mr. Chamberlain.

**At 6:02pm, Chairman Dave Connolly opened the meeting.**

**1. Public Comment:**

John Adams, resident, asked what the Commission is doing with the Dubois Property. Dave explained the Commission is responsible to manage the property and part of the plan calls for timber harvesting to keep in thriving and manage the wildlife habitats. Timber harvesting has currently started on the French Property and in the fall timber harvesting will probably occur on the Dubois Property. Art further explained that the Commission has hired foresters to decide what trees should be harvested and then NH Fish and Game must approve the plan along with the Commission. Mr. Adams explained that the Dubois Property has an access easement on his property and when he purchased the property he had to bring the road up to town specifications and maintain it. Now a significant amount of people are utilizing the road, dumping trash, parking in the middle of the road and such and this is causing a problem and concern. The Commission noted his concerns and stated they would certainly work on these issues and with him to make the property work the best for all those involved.

**2. Review of Minutes:**

*Jim Horan motioned to accept the minutes of 1-19-11 as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> Art LeClair. Motion carried with Gerry McCarthy abstaining.*

**3. Whittum Property with Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC):**

Anna Boudreau reviewed the "final" draft of the easement deed with the Commission. Jim asked what the acreage of 1A and 2B is and Anna replied 33.4 acres combined and these areas are not open to public use without verbal permission. Jim stated he is a bit concerned with how the easement has come about because initially the easement was supposed to be for approximately 100 acres and now only about 66 acres are available for

public use. Anna commented that 98 acres are in conservation with this easement but 33.4 acres are not open to the public without verbal permission.

*Art LeClair motioned to accept the version of the easement presented tonight (version #5) and forward to the Selectmen for approval, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Horgan. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**4. Discussion with John Scruton:**

John Scruton explained that the Town acquired Lot 42-4 due to non-payment of taxes and he would like to purchase this lot from the Town in order to build additional homes for their family. His plan is to build homes on lots 42 -5&6 and not develop lot 42-4. Gerry explained the Selectmen requested the Commission's opinion on this sale and noted that the sale of town property would require the land to be publicly advertised for sale. The Commission noted they would agree with the sale and would recommend a conservation easement go with the lot. *Jim Horgan motioned to recommend approval of the sale of the lot to the Selectmen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Art LeClair. Motion carried with Gerry McCarthy abstaining.*

**5. Discussion with Barry Elliot:**

Barry Elliot explained Cameron's would like to trade/swap some land with the town, to include lot R49. He presented a map to the Commission on what they are proposing for a land swap. They are interested in acquiring the "old road" area that is no longer a utilized road since Rte. 11 was built. Fred Cameron noted that they have had a lot of theft over the past 5-8 years and they would like to be able to fence off the area. Jim noted that it would be nice to obtain the land for conservation but this seems more like a decision for the Selectmen and the remaining Commission members agreed. Jim Horgan motioned to forward this question to the Selectmen with a favorable recommendation from the Commission, 2<sup>nd</sup> Art LeClair. Motion carried with Gerry McCarthy abstaining.

**6. Discussion with Farmington High School:**

Mr. Chamberlain, FHS science teacher, thanked the Commission for the lot maps that he was given and asked if he could get a copy of the town lot map. He also asked if there is a soil or other resource maps available. Dave will email a copy of the maps the town has to Mr. Chamberlain and will need to do some research to see what soil maps exist. Mr. Chamberlain then questioned if the Commission does any kind of stream or body water monitoring and Dave noted that at this time the Commission is not actively involved, though representatives from the Town participate in a Board with Laurie Chase.

Art asked if Mr. Chamberlain could survey his students to see what types of activities would they be interested in participating on Hay Day. Dave then reminded him that the

Commission would also like the schools to help with the planting of American Chestnut tree at the water tower. Mr. Chamberlain explained he has been doing some planning and has been exploring some possibilities on how he can incorporate the collaboration with the Commission. Dave then noted that there are several conservation camps available in the state and the Commission might be interested in assisting students attend these camps.

*At 7:37pm, Jim Horgan motioned for a short recess, 2<sup>nd</sup> Art LeClair. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**At 7:47pm the Commission reconvened.**

**7. Old Business:**

**A. Budget Committee 1-22-11 & 2-8-11 –**

Dave reported he presented the budget to the Budget Committee and they recommended the budget as presented. Also, a warrant article was created and recommended to restrict the revenue from the timber harvesting on town owned land managed by the Conservation Commission to go to the Conservation Commission.

**B. French Property Update –**

Dave reported that the Selectmen signed the Intent to Cut and the contract for the logger so the project can move forward. Also, Mr. King decided to not allow the access for the logging landing through his property so another site was identified and permits were granted. Dave asked Rich Gerard to research if there is a grant available for a handi-capped accessible fishing area.

**8. New Business:**

**A. Conservation District Annual Plant Sale –** Dave asked if the Commission would be interested in purchasing anything to get ready for Hay Day and Art replied it would be a long time to hold on to the plants because pick-up is in May.

**B.** Dave informed the Board he received another invoice from Norway Plains for \$1,236 for the surveying project.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2011 because of town meeting being the Wednesday prior.

*At 8:04pm, Jim Horgan motioned to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gerry McCarthy. Motion carried with all in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Brandy Sanger

Recording Secretary

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Chairman, Dave Connolly