

# Town of Frankestown Conservation Commission

## APPROVED MINUTES

February 4, 2008

A regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was held in the Town Offices on Monday, February 4, 2007 and called to order at 7:45 p.m.

Conservation Commission members in attendance: Carbee, Crooker, Hardwick, Lindgren, Reimer, Shuffleton. Secretary Lindgren took the minutes.

The proposed minutes of the 1/8/08 meeting were approved with no modification. The proposed minutes of the 12/10/07 meeting were approved with two modifications.

### Old Business

1. The Commission discussed the Zoning Ordinance changes being proposed by the Planning Board for consideration at the 2008 Town Meeting. Lindgren said that at the Public Hearing held on 1/22/08, the Planning Board realized that by an unintentional oversight the Commission had not yet had a chance to review and comment on the proposed changes that the Planning Board had discussed at its previous meeting, and if the Conservation Commission were to have any major concerns or suggestions for changes from that being proposed, the Planning Board would have to wait until next year to consider them (as there would not be enough time to schedule another Public Hearing to consider any further changes this year).

In consideration of the proposed changes, many involved bringing the Zoning Ordinance into compliance with the revision of the state Shoreland Protection Act scheduled to come into effect in April, 2008. However, as Hardwick noted, those revisions would include a large swath of properties with frontage along the Piscataquog River in Frankestown – specifically, those properties with Piscataquog River frontage downstream of the outlets of Pleasant Pond and Scobie pond – but because the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance did not include those areas in its scope, those proposed changes would not meet the goal of bringing the Ordinance into compliance with state standards. Because the changes involved were fairly complex, there was a consensus that in making some changes this year, and then further changes next year, there was a likelihood of creating substantial confusion among those affected. Therefore the Commission members came to a consensus that it would be best to postpone the implementation of such Zoning Ordinance changes until next year. Crooker questioned whether in delaying implementation of the proposed changes, the Commission might be throwing the baby out with the bathwater, as there were a number of substantial changes to the Zoning Ordinance that would be beneficial to implement immediately. There was concern that there were only two options proposed by the Planning Board – to either approve all the proposed changes or to approve none of them.

Lindgren made a motion to respond to the Planning Board by saying that the Conservation Commission does not support the adoption of the changes to the Zoning Ordinance as proposed, as they are incomplete and premature. Reimer seconded the motion. The majority of the members voted to approve the motion.

2. Scott Carbee has put up the inner gate to the Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area, as authorized by the Commission at its 12/10/07 meeting, and submitted an invoice for \$236.11. Crotched Mountain Resort is responsible for maintaining it. A second gate will be installed subject to the

receipt of written authorization by Crotched Mountain Resort, which has yet to be received. Lindgren made a motion to authorize payment of the invoice. Shuffleton seconded the motion. All in favor.

3. The annual stewardship monitoring reports for LCIP properties have been submitted. A special spring easement monitoring visit will be scheduled this spring for the Stone property.
4. A newsletter is being proposed for mailing in the April timeframe. Earth Day events and revised Shoreland Protection Act details are to be included. Crooker and Hardwick will work on some articles. Send them any ideas.
5. Suggestions for revisions to the Open Space Plan for the updated town Master Plan are being called for. Contact Abigail Arnold with any suggestions.
6. Lindgren made a motion to open to the public record the minutes of the Executive Sessions held by the Conservation Commission on 5/5/03, 2/7/05, 11/7/05, 3/6/06 and 5/22/06, as they involved proposed purchases of conservation land which have since been completed. Crooker seconded the motion. All in favor. Lindgren will open the envelopes and give them to the town clerk for filing in the Minutes file.
7. Shuffleton noted that the Duck Boxes in the Crotched Mountain Town Forest have received their yearly maintenance. All the eggs in the nests in all but one of the boxes had been hatched. Thanks to Jeff Tarr, Betsy Hardwick, Suzanne and Don Shuffleton for cleaning out each box and putting in new shavings.
8. The recent Bear Show last month in the Joan Hanchett Nature Series was a great success. It was very well attended, with standing room only and an enthusiastic audience from Francestown, Weare, Peterborough and surrounding towns. Ideas for future presentations include wolves and coyotes with a state expert, and sheep/lambing with Francestown residents Paula Hunter and Joe Valentine.

### **New Business**

9. David Baldwin, the new manager at the Crotched Mountain Resort, would like to come to talk with the Commission regarding the use of trails in the Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area, and discuss what policies and maintenance strategies might be developed to promote the common interests of the Resort and the Town in this area. The Commission members encouraged scheduling such a future visit. Topics of interest discussed included recreational uses, sponsorship of hikes and nature walks, maintenance, grooming and signing of trails, and vehicular access. Lindgren made a motion to implement an interim management policy that no motorized vehicles would be permitted in the Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area, with the exception of emergency access, without the express permission of the Conservation Commission. In discussion, the Commission noted that it would favorably consider applications that involved the use of motorized vehicles in order to allow access to people unable to access the property on their own. Crooker seconded the motion. All in favor.
10. At its meeting of 1/8/08, the Commission voted to approve the DES expedited application for the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center's trail project. While the application was originally filed as having Major Impact, surveyor/wetland scientist Robert Todd has since informed the Commission that the project is actually considered to be Minimum Impact.
11. Shuffleton moved to adjourn at 9:45. Lindgren seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Lindgren, Secretary