

Town of Frankestown Conservation Commission

APPROVED MINUTES

October 5, 2009

A regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was held in the Town Offices on Monday, October 5, 2009 and called to order at 7:43 p.m.

Conservation Commission members in attendance: Carbee, Danforth, Freese, Hardwick, Holmes, Lindgren, Shuffleton. Secretary Lindgren took the minutes.

The minutes for the August 3, 2009 and September 14, 2009 meetings were accepted as proposed.

Old Business

1. Russ Putnam, representing SBA Properties, presented SBA's newest plans for extending the access road to their Cell Tower site on Crotched Mountain. A site-walk was held on Saturday, September 26 at 9:00 a.m., and suggestions from Commission members given at the site-walk have been incorporated into the new proposed plans, including moving the trail closer to the rock wall and further from the wetlands, and adding a turnaround at the top. A note has been added to incorporate strong stable road material, as the wood chips originally proposed would wash away.

Danforth asked if there would be any provisions to stabilize the path after final construction, and Putnam said that those would be incorporated on the final plan. Freese asked if the equipment shelter would be placed outside the fence, and Putnam said that federal regulations require the tower to be fenced, although including the equipment in the fenced area is optional. Putnam suggested putting a gate at the bottleneck area just above the wetland to prevent unwanted vehicular access. The existing slope on the proposed road is around 46% through the steep turn, and could be graded to about 37%. The public right-of-way could be maintained by continuing the path, at the top of the road, around to the other side and off of the property.

The proposed construction strategy and potential staging areas were discussed. It was noted that vehicles should never be parked in the field down by the old ski area Maintenance Hut as that is within the well radius of a public water supply feeding the condos. Also on the site walk it was discovered that a wildflower species that is on the State's threatened list is to be found along the road going up the mountain. The need to stay within the access road right-of-way in order to protect that species was discussed, as well as the need to fence off the mossy blanket along the side of the wetland. While the Commission agreed that this current proposal is better than the original plan, the concerns referenced in the Commission's letter of response to the previous plan still continue to be problematic issues.

2. A Purchase and Sales agreement has been drafted for the Piscataquog River Project. The Stewart property needs to be surveyed. The first quote came in at \$8000 for surveying – two other quotes will be requested.
3. The proposed SPNHF easement on the old ski area property has progressed to title review. Boundaries need to be blazed.

4. Danforth has donated his time and equipment to do a rough plot of the proposed Dinsmore Brook land protection project. The estimated size is 79 acres, which is larger than expected. Hardwick and Abigail Arnold (for the FLT) are finishing up an LCHIP application for the project.
5. CMRC's wetland application for the handicapped trail project seems to have encountered some difficulties in the state review process.
6. The status of various other easement projects and protection opportunities was discussed

New Business

7. Sharon Monahan, Peterborough Septic Systems Designer, described the septic system being proposed for the Montgomery property on Pleasant Pond. Carbee made a motion to accept the proposed Permit By Notification. Shuffleton seconded the motion. All in favor.

While the Board supported the proposed ZBA variance request, there were concerns about what would happen if all the abutters and camp owners around Pleasant Pond were to propose similar septic system upgrades. If such an increase in use intensity should evolve, the Pond would not be able to support the additional pollution, especially phosphates, nitrates, viruses and dissolved pollutants, which would eventually flow unaltered into the lake water, and which would eventually lead to the diminution of the water quality and problems with algae and overabundance of plant growth as has been demonstrated in too many other state lakes and ponds. Therefore, the Board suggests that such septic systems should only be approved for second home use, and for seasonal use only (as per the state definition).

8. Thanks to Jeff Tarr and Ron Klemarczyk who are donating their time to select, mark and harvest the necessary pines in the Shattuck Pond Town Forest for use in constructing the new Frankestown Vehicular Museum. Only about 12-14 trees will be required. Tree selection will focus on trees that are just past their peak value.
9. The annual easement monitoring walk was scheduled for Sunday at noon, October 25. Meet at the town offices.
10. Freese moved to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. Lindgren seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Lindgren, Secretary