

Town of Frankestown Conservation Commission

APPROVED MINUTES

May 3, 2010

A regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was held in the Town Offices on Monday, May 3, 2010 and called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Conservation Commission members in attendance: Carbee, Crooker, Freese, Hardwick, Lindgren. The Selectmen and Town Counsel were in attendance for the first 15 minutes, finishing the Board of Selectmen's meeting, in order to discuss the proposed SBA Communications cell tower. Secretary Lindgren took the minutes.

The minutes for the April 5, 2010 meeting were accepted as proposed.

Old Business

1. The Zoning Board of Adjustment created two conditions of approval for a steep slopes variance for the SBA Communications cell tower project atop Crotched Mountain: 1) a plan for a trail across their property that would access the wireless communications facility, and would also provide public access across their property, and 2) a sedimentation and erosion control plan for the construction of the trail.

On the first issue of public access, Russ Putnam of SBA was on the site walk and proposed a 3-foot wide trail surfaced with wood chips, which would be "self-maintaining." The proposed sedimentation and erosion control plan is shown on the plans ES-1 and ES-2, and will be reviewed by Chris Danforth for the Conservation Commission.

Putnam also proposed that the building would go to the edge of the fencing, and the side of the building would be part of the "fence" to minimize the amount of fencing for the compound.

The ZBA also specified that a gate should be placed to limit vehicular access onto the property and trail. The Planning Board indicated that it preferred the gate be placed below the property on the access road, where there is a large boulder and steep wooded slope on the other side of the access road, which would make the gate very effective. Otherwise a vehicle could possibly swing around the gate (if placed at the edge of the property) and go through the wetlands. The selectmen would need to give an ok to that gate placement, as it is on town land, and they offered to consider the matter at their next meeting.

The selectmen are also going to consider a proposed easement which would differ slightly from that described in Plan 27614 (1994) in the registry of deeds. The new easement would limit the right of way width to 12 feet from 20 feet.

SBA will bring these suggestions to the Planning Board on 5/4/10 to discuss it with them. The Conservation Commission was in agreement with the proposals.

Chair Hardwick suggests the Conservation Commission should request that the SBA

maintenance and construction vehicles be strictly limited to that right-of-way, and that no passing be allowed, because having vehicular traffic outside the right-of-way might impact the sensitive flora and fauna found in that area.

2. A \$2200 invoice was received from Scot Heath, which was the amount he originally estimated, for doing an assessment for the Stewart property. Crooker made a motion to pay the invoice from the Conservation Fund. Lindgren seconded the motion. All in favor.
3. The Earth Day road cleanup was very successful this year.

New Business

4. The Scobie Pond Association missed the deadline for applying for the milfoil treatment grant this year, so unless there are other sources of funding forthcoming there will be no treatment this year.
5. The conservation commission received a check from LCHIP for sending in the monitoring report this year on-time (thanks to Chair Hardwick). However, the check was erroneously made out to the Frankestown Land Trust. A replacement check has been requested.
6. Matt Tarr and Emma Brockhurst presented a program on managing fields at the Saving Special Places conference on Saturday, April 10 in Weare (John Stark High School). Holmes and Hardwick attended from the Conservation Commission.
7. The status of various other easement projects and protection opportunities was discussed
8. Crooker moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Lindgren seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Lindgren, Secretary