

Town of Frankestown Conservation Commission

APPROVED MINUTES

June 7, 2010

A regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was held in the Town Offices on Monday, June 7, 2010 and called to order at 7:30 p.m.

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

Members of the public in attendance: Josh Bond (Monadnock Ledger).

The minutes for the May 3, 2010 meeting were accepted with three minor changes.

Public Hearing – Proposed Chase Property Acquisition

1. A public hearing was held regarding the proposed fee acquisition of 82 +/- acres of property adjacent to the Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area, owned by Michael and Jane Chase (formerly Tax Map 8 Lot 8; a lot line adjustment was recently approved by the Planning Board to add this 82 +/- acres of property to Tax Map 8 Lot 46, the Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area, owned by the Town of Frankestown).

The property will be acquired with \$60,000 from a state LCHIP grant with the balance to come from the Conservation Fund. Project costs such as appraisals, surveys, legal fees etc. will be reimbursed (for up to \$25,000) from a Quabbin-to-Cardigan grant, a collaborative project being administered by SPNHF. An easement will be held by the Frankestown Land Trust on the property with an Executory Interest held by the State of NH. The fee purchase price is \$114,000. Survey costs are anticipated to be over \$6000, plus additional legal and appraisal costs.

The property includes 500 feet of frontage along Dinsmore Brook, multiple vernal pools, and is classified by the State as being an Exemplary Natural Wetland Community that extends all the way from the Shattuck Pond Town Forest, and includes some of the highest-ranking habitat in the State of NH. This would result in a contiguous 460 acres of land protected by conservation easements in that area.

Chair Hardwick noted that the proposed acquisition meets the Conservation Commission's criteria for land conservation. Ben Haubrich sent in a letter "strongly supporting the project". Lindgren made a motion to approve the fee acquisition of the property, subject to the Board of Selectmen's approval, for up to \$62,000, such monies to come from the Conservation Fund. Freese seconded the motion. All in favor.

Old Business

2. Chase property proposed easement and grant status: Ben Haubrich has nearly completed the baseline documentation for the Chase property. The same stewardship plan as is in place for the Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area would be extended to the Chase property. Main Street Title

will need to qualify the title under LCHIP. Lindgren made a motion to approve spending \$2200 for the required appraisal of the Chase property, and \$1800 for the appraisal of a 7-acre property owned by Abigail Arnold that would be used as a match for the LCHIP grant, both monies to come from the Conservation Fund and to be reimbursable from the Quabbin-to-Cardigan grant. Freese seconded the motion. All in favor.

3. A work session was scheduled on 6/26 at 8:00 a.m. to clear a short trail providing access to the Stewart conservation property from the town road and to install a sign at the point of access, as required under the terms of the DES ARM Grant. Chris Danforth submitted an invoice for \$800 for the environmental assessment. Crooker made a motion to pay the \$800 invoice, such monies to come from the Conservation Fund. Lindgren seconded the motion. All in favor.
4. The Board approved sending a thank-you letter to Gordon Russell for his help, contribution and support of the Stewart project.
5. The status of various other easement projects and protection opportunities was discussed

New Business

6. Freese reports seeing a scissor-tailed flycatcher in town in late May. She described it as a smallish pale grey bird with pink color along its flanks, a small beak, a rounded head and a VERY long split tail. Keep on the lookout for this unusual visitor!
7. The fire department reported on the results of using a part of the Crotched Mountain Town Forest in a controlled burn for a state training session. A forest ranger showed Hardwick what was done – they raked out the Quarry Trail like a fire line, and left dead trees for wildlife habitat. Private landowners can coordinate controlled burns with the state training operations. Lindgren suggested that the Commission commission a large controlled burn all across the summit and cliff areas of Crotched Mountain in order to improve blueberry habitats and views from the top. Crooker concurred.
8. Crooker moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Lindgren seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Lindgren, Secretary