

JAFFREY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 24, 2010

In Attendance: William Graf, Co-Chair
James Bearce, Co-Chair
Nora Barton Bryant
John O. Field
Carolyn Garretson
Ron Rogstad, Alternate
Kathy Batchelder, Selectmen's Representative

Absent: Patricia Weiner

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. William Graf appointed himself scribe. The minutes of January 27, 2010 were approved with corrections.

II. Correspondence

A. Emily Hague, Stewardship Manager for the Monadnock Conservancy, sent an email informing us of the results of the February 4, 2010 visitation to the timber harvest on the Mitchell property (Mead Brook easement in the NRI) on Great Road.

B. JOF received an email from Camp Wildwood, announcing the availability of a campership for a Jaffrey resident for the summer of 2010 and the criteria to be used in selecting a candidate. BG will contact the Jaffrey Public Schools for help in identifying qualified candidates.

C. Notification was received from DES granting permission to begin a timber cut on David Jeffries' property at 617 Mountain Road.

D. Notification was received from DES of a Dredge and Fill Application by Mr. And Mrs. Brian Simmons for their property on Fitzwilliam Road.

E. JOF received an email from Debby Kaiser of the Peterborough Open Space Committee inquiring as to whether or not we would be interested in participating in their Open Space Calendar for 2011. BG will call for further information.

III. Treasurer's Report

A. Gordon Fund. There is some confusion with the Town Finance Office over accounting for the Gordon Fund, particularly in regard to the year in which the interest is to be spent. BG and CG will meet with Mike Hartman to try to settle this and to establish a procedure by which expenditures are approved by the Conservation Commission before they are paid by the Finance Office.

A motion by CG, seconded by NBB, was made to reimburse the Con Com \$1,002.50 from the Gordon Fund for the balance of the cost of the survey of Children's Woods. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn pending the discussion with Mike Hartman.

B. CG reported that the Con Com had a balance at the end of January of \$10,830.78, including the Gordon Fund interest for 2009. Of this amount, \$6,909 is encumbered, and \$2,898.51 is restricted, leaving an available balance of \$1,023.27.

IV. Priority Items

A. Open Space Ad Hoc Committee. Mark Kresge proposed to the Selectmen that the scope of the Committee's work be expanded to include the initial phases of developing the Open Space Plan. They have agreed. The Committee will hold a series of meetings this spring with residents who represent particular interest groups to ascertain their perspectives on open space, then use this information to identify the components of the plan. This report is scheduled to be presented to the Selectmen by the end of the summer for their consideration.

B. Items for Town Meeting. KB will email members with the relevant warrant articles such as the funds being requested for LACRF.

C. Discussion on the Con Com Chairmanship. BG informed the Commission last month that he would no longer continue as temporary co-chair. CG proposed rotating the chair monthly until Commission membership could be increased. A second proposal was to rotate the chair on a three-month schedule. Both of these solutions have problems with delineating responsibilities. The Commission could not arrive at a long-term solution, so CG volunteered to organize the March meeting, and JB agreed to stay on as co-chair and handle investigations and projects in the field.

D. Site visitation on Fitzwilliam Road. The Commission decided that a site visitation was warranted for the Dredge and Fill Application for Fitzwilliam Road, submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Simmons. JB, RR, and BG will visit the site on March 2 at 10AM.

V. Reports

A. Lands and Trails. JB reported that he has been unable to do anything at the CPCA because of the weather. He has, however, begun to make wooden trail markers in his wood shop for use in CPCA and Children's Woods. These will be installed in the spring.

B. Membership and Conservation Commission Brochure. KB distributed a copy of the brochure she has been working on. She explained that it can be used as a recruitment tool. It can be produced in quantity at her office for the cost of the paper and printing, which is 7cents per copy. It was agreed to print approximately seventy-five copies for distribution at Town Meeting. Members were asked to get final suggestions and changes to her by Friday, March 5th.

C. Report on the timber harvest on Great Road. A neighbor of the Mitchell property, (identified as the Mead Brook easement in the NRI), called The Monadnock Conservancy and some members of the Con Com concerning the timber harvest. She felt that the scope of the harvest was not in keeping with the terms of the easement. Emily Hague of TMC contacted JOF, and he and BG accompanied her on February 4th to inspect the activity. While the scope of the harvest was extensive, it did not appear to violate the terms of the easement. The only concern noted was where the logging road crossed Mead Brook. EH discussed this with the logger and was satisfied with the response (see Correspondence). She will revisit the site.

D. Conservation Commission Files. JOF has been relocating many of the Con Com files from his home to the file drawers in the Town Office. He showed the members where the files are located and explained his filing system. He noted that many old files should be reviewed to determine if they need to be kept. He also mentioned that some files were still at Brenda Bhatti's house.

VI. Updates and Information

Reminder: Saving Special Places Conference, Saturday, April 10, 2010.

VII. Other Business

A. Town Meeting. It was decided to have a display at Town Meeting.

Assignments: JB - pick up and deliver an 8' table from Team Jaffrey

NBB - display on invasive species, NRI maps

PW - Con Com banner

RR - table covering

BG - NRI report, CPCA Management Plan

B. NBB inquired if anyone knew about the timber harvest at the corner of Proctor and Harkness Roads. JB said he heard it was to remove trees destroyed in the ice storm.

C. River signs. The signs to identify the Contoocook River where it crosses major highways have arrived. RR will take care of them.

B. Recognition of John O. Field. This was John's last meeting as a member of the Commission. He has been a member for seven years, the last two as Chairman. In recognition of his service and appreciation for his leadership, members presented him with a framed photograph of Mount Monadnock, taken by Tuck Gilbert.

VIII. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2010. The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William Graf