

## **Jaffrey Conservation Commission Minutes**

**October 26, 2011**

Present: Michael George, Chairman

Nora Barton Bryant

Carolyn Garretson

William Graf

Nancy Beiter, Aspiring Member

Jan McClure, Nature Conservancy, Guest

Absent: Patricia Weiner

Ron Rogstead, Alternate

Kathy Batchelder, Selectboard Representative

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. The September meeting minutes were approved.

II. It was pointed out that the Town of Jaffrey's website does not carry a notice of JCC meetings in its scrolling list of events. Michael George agreed to call Mark Kresge who is in charge of the Town's website to ask him to correct this oversight and to be sure a notice of JCC meetings is listed in the newspaper.

III. Carolyn Garretson presented the financial report for the year-to-date.

She pointed out that \$2400 needs to be spent on Children's Woods before the year's end. Michael George noted that Boy Scout Mike Sisk will be doing a substantial amount of work there in an effort to elevate his rank to Eagle Scout.

We will reimburse him between \$300 and \$400 to cover his expenses for building a kiosk there. Also, Bill Graff agreed to do a write up to accompany a map of the woods in preparation for a brochure. He will oversee the making of enough

brochures for distribution to local area schools and for maintaining in the new kiosk at the site. Finally Carolyn Garretson will arrange for the purchase of duck, bird and owl houses near the river on the site and will enlist volunteers to put the new houses in place.

In other budget news, Michael George reported that Jeff Middleton of Moosewood Ecological , LLC, who made a presentation to the JCC at its September meeting will not be charging for the advice he gave concerning the development of a Conservation Plan as a follow up to the Natural Resources Inventory that was recently completed.

III. Michael George agreed to attend the meeting of the Town Planning Board on November 14 provided that he could get on the Planning Board's agenda in order to present the Natural Resources Inventory ( NRI)to the Planning Board and to urge the Planning Board's consideration of the NRI as an essential part of the Town's Master Plan.

IV. Michael George will send a letter to the Town Selectman asking that Nancy Beiter of Gilmore Pond Road be appointed as member of the JCC.

V. Jan McClure of the Nature Conservancy explained that the Nature Conservancy owns Whitmore Island in Thorndike Pond. Because the Monadnock Region is not an area where the Nature Conservancy is concentrating its efforts, it has decided to donate the property to the Monadnock Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy received the island by bequest and under the terms of that bequest it must ensure that the property is never developed. In order to be sure those terms are honored, the Nature Conservancy wishes to donate a conservation easement on the island to the Town of Jaffrey and will pay all the expenses of preparing and transferring the easement. The JCC, working with the Monadnock Conservancy, will monitor the island annually to insure that the intentions of the donor are being honored. Jan McClure will work with Carolyn Garretson and Nancy Beiter to effect the transfer. Carolyn and Nancy will present this potential donation to the Town Selectmen

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with the JCC's recommendation that the acquisition of the easement be approved. Jan will provide Carolyn and Nancy with reports made by the Nature Conservancy after visits to the island. Anne McBride of the Monadnock Conservancy will be included in any further discussions of this proposal. Carolyn and Nancy will also check with the Thorndike Pond Association to determine what use, if any, is currently made of the island by summer camps or other groups.

VI. Michael George reviewed with the JCC three notices received from the NH

DES, none of which required JCC action.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with a note that a proposal to arrange a public program with a speaker on local wild life would be explored at the next meeting which is to be November 30, 2011, at the Town Hall Offices at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Beiter