

Conservation Commission Minutes

June 22, 2011

In attendance: Michael George, Chairperson

James Bearce

Nora Barton Byant

William Graf

Absent: Carolyn Garretson

Ron Rogstad, Alternate

Patricia Weiner

Kathy Batchelder, Selectboard Representative

Also attending: Herb Gramm, citizen

Scott Perkins, PSNH

Krista Butterfield, PSNH

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. William Graf was appointed scribe for the meeting.

II. The May 2011 minutes were approved.

III. There was no treasurer's report.

IV. Scott Perkins and Krista Butterfield of PSNH presented a plan proposed by PSNH to bring increased electric capacity to a section of Malborough along Route 124. The power would come from a substation located in Troy. The most direct route would be along Troy Road to the power lines on the north side of Rt. 124 and then across Perkins Pond.

Since the plan involves crossing a wetland at a highly visited scenic area, PSNH has developed a plan to place the line fifteen feet beneath the surface of Perkins Pond. They have already obtained an easement from the property owner in Troy. The operation would involve a temporary 404 sq. ft. impact on the Jaffrey side for the drilling equipment, with a permanent impact of 4 sq. ft. for the pole. The temporarily impacted area would be restored to its original condition.

The Con Com saw no objections to the proposal and felt that the PSNH plan was minimally intrusive to the ecological and scenic values of the site. The Commission voted unanimously to support the proposal for DES approval.

!V. Old Business

A. Children's Woods and Cheshire Pond Work - JB has been in contact with Naomi Caywood from Camp Wildwood. They have scheduled two workdays for Cheshire Pond, Saturday, July 9, and Sunday, July 24. JB will work out an organization plan before the first workday.

A local Boy Scout, Scott Sisk, has inquired about working at Cheshire Pond for his Eagle Scout project. Possibilities include constructing the notice boards for both CPCA and Children's Woods or building boardwalks for wet areas of the trail.

Kathy Dunn, who lives in Coburn Woods, has expressed an interest in helping with maintenance work at CPCA.

ACTION: MG will contact the Ledger-Transcript about the workdays at CPCA.

MG has also received the map files for Children's Woods.

B. Gray Goose Easement - WG reviewed the easement document and reported that the language is ambiguous about whether the building envelope has to be a single two acre parcel or more than one parcel that does not exceed two acres. He has left a message with Brenda Bhatti, but she has not called back. Also, the farm pond restoration is not prohibited by the easement but should be cleared with DES.

ACTION: JB will try to speak with Brenda when she is at Monadnock State Park.

C. Monadnock Conservancy - CG and WG met with Peter Throop and Rick Brackett to discuss a Conservation Plan for Jaffrey. Much of the discussion seemed to focus on open space issues and this approach might be more appropriate for the Open Space Committee.

D. Discussion with Jeff Littleton - WG followed up with a phone conversation with Jeff Littleton to discuss his ideas about a Conservation Plan. His ideas seem more germane to a Con Com that did not have Open Space responsibilities. ACTION: WG will invite Jeff to share his ideas at our July meeting.

E. Riverfest - NBB reviewed what had been done last year. It was decided to continue our educational mission by displaying the NRI maps and disseminating information about invasive species. The following assignments were made:

canopy - JB	table - MG	table cloth, banner, binders - NBB
maps - ?	samples of invasive species - CG, WG	weed wrench - CG

F. Possible speakers for public forums -

1. Linda McCracken of Marlow, who has a workshop on cougars in New England.
2. Wildlife experts who relocate bears to remote locations
3. People who can talk about their experiences on the Appalachian Trail.
4. Ollie Much, who has walked the AT and is involved with the Wapack Trail.

ACTION: MG will compile ideas for discussion at the July meeting.

V. New Business

A. Ann McBride reported to MG that the federal grant for the Shattuck Farm was approved. There is now a need to work on the state LCHIP grant, which requires local participation. MG will contact her about how we need to proceed.

B. Brenda Bhatti is working with a 4H group of 8-12 year olds. They want to work on mapping invasive species and would like to work with the Con Com. NBB will get more specifics about how they would like us to cooperate.

C. Herb Gramm reported that the boardwalks at Sandy and Rocky Beaches are working well, but there needs to be an extension across one additional area.

D. NBB emailed an announcement of a program for builders and Planning Board members to Erline. She also felt we should have someone present at the July 12 PB meeting. WG will try to attend.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM. The next meeting will be held July 27, 2011 at the Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

William Graf