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NEW BOSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 11, 2002

Members present: Rebecca Balke, Betsey Dodge, Kate Fitzpatrick, Deborah Keiner, Brenda Lind, Joseph Nangle, Joe Taggart, Eric Thum, and Burr Tupper

Minutes of June, 2002 meeting read, edited, and accepted;

Treasurer's Report - \$ 17,192.48.

Guests present for the Public Comment Session on the Saunders Pasture Management Plan: Alan LaPenn, Catherine Richard and Mike Richard.

Public Comment Session, Saunders Pasture Management Plan:

Brenda began the Public Comment Session by reading a letter from Alan Lapenn. (Attached) Discussion followed on the issues of:

1. Horses: This issue will be discussed at the next meeting. The committee will meet in the interim.
2. alcohol consumption: Abutters had concerns about this, and asked for signs that say "no drinking". Kate responded that often time the irresponsible people were not the teens, but adults. It was agreed that a sign that was posted further into the area might be advantageous.
3. Dogs, leashed or unleashed: Catherine Richard discussed the nesting heron, and the fact that dogs would disturb the birds.
4. Bicycles: No bicycles allowed in the area.
5. Waste Management and trash: Abutters wanted trash containers put in, but CC told them that we had not put trash containers in other areas as it encouraged some people to dump household waste, and CC believed people should "carry in and carry out". At this time, Burr suggested that the "Friends of Conservation" might help to pick up the trash.
6. Hunting: Abutters had concerns about hunting and the presence of guns in the area.
7. Parking: Joe Taggart agreed that a long walk to the area would discourage irresponsible use. Mr LaPenn stated that the Class VI road was very unsafe in its current condition. He asked the CC to look at the road, and Betsey informed him that the Selectmen were dealing with the issue. The abutters were also informed that parking would most likely be on the side of Saunders Hill Road, and this was reiterated more than once.
8. Posting of rules and regulations:
9. Mike Richard expressed his view that the area was a "jewel of the community", and

that no trails should be built, and the area should be completely left alone. LaPenn had concerns about the field and “playing with Mother Nature”. Brenda informed him that we had ideas and information from John Nute, the County Forester.

Margaret Watkins - PWA - Ms. Watkins joined us to discuss the “Streambank Stabilization” for the south side of Gregg Mill in the Piscataquog River. There are concerns about the mussels, and erosion. Rip rap has already been put in place. A new technique will be used to put “log veins” in the river. This is a method of putting logs in a V shape pointing downstream, so as to direct the current to the middle of the stream. The angle will collect sediment to create a fish habitat.

Also to be used will be a “porous weir”, which is a group of rocks in a V shape to also channel the water to the middle of the river. Major work will begin the first week of August. A dredge and Fill has been approved, and the group will be working with the DOT. Willows will be planted.

Lang Station - CC discussed the proposed parking lot at Lang Station. Betsey to ask Bo Strong for a price estimate to clear the parking area and dump gravel for a parking surface. CC discussed the rocks that had been left in the area and what to do with them.

Open Space - Eric had sent CC members a sample letter to be sent to land owners whose land was on a special list of potential lands to be saved or put under easement. Joe N. moved to accept the letter, and Burr seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Alex Noftsger - Eric Thum to contact Mr. Noftsger, and hopefully meet with him about a land easement.

Parker/Library Land - In the hands of DES - more information needed for Dredge and Fill.

Laurel Lane/Lyn Beers - Burr, Joe and Kate did an onsite. Originally there were concerns over a gully that was filled, and currently concern over the closeness of the barn to the wetland. Betsey will check on 1.5 acres of contiguous dry land on Lot 4. CC discussion ended with “no concerns”.

Friends of Conservation Commission - Burr and Eric brought us up to date on this issue. Dwight Lovejoy will be contacted to help with projects in the future.

Mill Pond - Court date is July 12, 2002 at 10:00AM at the Hillsborough County Superior Court. LCN to call witnesses. Brenda, Betsey, and David Woodbury to be present.

Amherst Land Trust - Joe to make a map of the various pieces of land of interest in this trust. The land in Joe English is of interest in this area, and is a proposed piece of conservation land or a greenway.

Dupuis/Carriage Road (Sharon Rd.) - We have 10 acres of easement, and the words "shall not disturb wetlands has been written in the deeds of the 33 properties in this area. Nic Strong suggested that CC write to all of the owners in new developments that the wetlands be left alone and not encroached on in any way. Brenda will write a letter for Betsey's signature.

Bog Brook - CC was made aware of concerns of the landowners in the former Jim Powers development. The State Forester has come to the area to see the land that was damaged. Betsey asked about the boundary markers that deliniate private land and town land. CC is concerned that they are not visible, and land owners do not know where the boundaries are. There was a question of stumpage, and did the landowner or developer encroach on town land?

Clark Hill Road - This is a 3 lot subdivision on Map 7/1. Betsey and Joe N. did an onsite, and CC reviewed the map. Pink on the wetlands map indicates "somewhat poorly drained" soil, and is not counted as a wetland. If the map has a green color on it, it is a wetland. Betsey saw partially buried wetland flags, and was told not to touch them, or move them. The owner now must apply for restoration. CC discussed asking the owner if he would consider a 50' buffer around the wetland. Would he consider a buffer for a wildlife corridor? CC to ask the Planning Board to get a second opinion about the wetlands.

Second Graders - Money collected by the second graders at NB Central (\$25.10) to be used at the Mill Pond Area for planting or for signs.

Land Trust alliance Program - Eric to attend the meeting, and ask for their help with mapping. Burr suggested that we all go to their next meeting in September. Do we pay dues to them?

PWA - A phone call was received from volunteer, Sarah Uhl. PWA has received a Living Legacy Grant to map the Natural Resources and Historical spots in the PWA watershed. Kate suggested that we write to Sarah Uhl and ask her to write to us to clearly state what she is looking for from us. (Burr)

New Business - Briar Hill Road - Bob Macantee has asked for "No Motorized Vehicle" signs for the Skofield area. We will need a tasteful sign. Also quick and inexpensive. Betsey to ask Scott Elliot.

Meeting adjourned 9:50PM, next meeting scheduled for Aug. 1, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah Keiner
Secretary

July, 2002