

DRAFT MINUTES

NEW DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

APRIL 29, 2008

Chairperson Dennis Gagne called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Members Present: Dennis Gagne (Chair), Charlie Berube (Vice-Chair), Bill Malay (Alternate), Bob Craycraft (Alternate), and Ron Gehl (Selectmen's Representative)

Others Present: Cynthia Belowski, David Bickford

Chair Gagne invited Cynthia Belowski from the Moose Mountain Regional Greenway Association (MMRG) to explain her needs. The Conservation Commission has contracted with Ms. Belowski to provide Land Agent Services to the Commission. This involves working with landowners to encourage them to grant or sell conservation easements on their property.

Ms. Belowski told the board that the MMRG has grants from the New Hampshire Estuaries project and the Moose plate Fund to hold a couple of workshops for landowners that will explain to them the tax opportunities associated with making a grant of land or of a conservation easement. In this way, they are hoping to develop a database of landowners who are potentially interested in giving or selling lands or easements now or at some time in the future.

The MMRG has scheduled an estate-planning workshop for May 19 with Phil Auger and Clay Mitchell as presenters. They would like to send out a letter from the Conservation Commission to approximately 150 New Durham landowners inviting them to attend.

She asked the Commission members for help in drawing up the list of people who to invite, and in identifying individuals who have already had some contact with Commission members so that members can add a personal, handwritten note to the letter.

Commission members worked on the project for about an hour. Ms. Belowski will draft the letter, put together the mailing list invitees, and send to both Bill Malay and David Allen for their review. David Allen will get envelopes and stationery to MMRG for use in the mailing.

Ms. Belowski also told the Commission that MMRG has hired Clay Mitchell to take over responsibility for the land agent work when she moves out of state in a few weeks.

The Commission and Ms. Belowski discussed the potential role of the Town as a recipient of an easement or a gift of property and the need to establish a Town Easement Management Endowment.

Display board. The Commission discussed the creation of a display board that would educate citizens about the goals and progress of the Conservation Commission.

Shoreland Protection. David Allen suggested the commission view a video describing the key changes in the Shoreland Protection Act. Commission members agreed and suggested inviting members of other Town Boards, and members of the Merrymeeting Lake Association.

Miscellaneous. David Allen distributed a draft of Commission goals for 2008. Dennis Gagne noted that the Commission needed to update its mission statement.

Adjournment: Dennis Gagne moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. Ron Gehl seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

David Allen
Land Use Administrative Assistant