

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
AUGUST 28, 2012

Paddy McHale called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

Roll Call: Paddy McHale (Chair), Cathy Allyn, Charlie Berube (Vice-Chair), Bill Malay. **Excused:** Bob Craycraft, Ron Gehl

Alimonti Complaint: The Commission reviewed an Enforcement Complaint filed by Andrew Alimonti at 120 South Shore Road (Map 122-013). The complaint states that the abutter's dock and boatlift are within 20' of the Alimonti property line without their agreement. The complaint has been filed with DES. The Commission agreed that DES is the body with enforcement authority in this situation. They asked staff David Allen to convey to DES their belief that a site visit is very strongly recommended.

Rose Application: The commission reviewed a Standard Dredge and Fill Application submitted by Kyle Rose at 29 & 29a Elly Point Road (Map 111, Lots 12 and 13). They had some difficulty understanding what exists currently and what is proposed. They understand the dock on Map 111-013 to be pre-existing although it appears to be within 20' of the abutting property line. Mr. Allen said he had found no record of DES permits for this location. Mr. Rose is requesting a new anchor pad that will be used in the future for a seasonal dock. This also appears to be within 20' of the opposite abutter's property line. The Commission asked Mr. Allen to raise these concerns with DES on their behalf.

Southern Spectrum: Southern Spectrum, Inc. (Mike Appe) has filed for a Standard Dredge and Fill Application permit for property located off Middleton Road (Map 247-002). This property is used as private hunting preserve. Southern Spectrum is asking to create a wildlife pond that will involve dredging 9,000 square feet of wetlands. The dredge material will be used to raise the height of two woods roads that intersect near the pond. New culverts will be installed. The Commission felt the plan was well designed and agreed to sign it for expedited handling by DES.

Working Session on use of Conservation Funds: Bill Malay reminded the Commission of the long-standing effort to work with Sandra Hammond to protect about 300 acres, mostly wetlands, in the northwest corner of the town.

He said the proposal has a good chance for getting funds from the Wetlands Reserve Protection (WRP) fund, but hoped for matching funds from other sources have not materialized. He noted that Tim Collins owns an abutting property of about 60 acres, and has said in the past that if the Hammond property were protected he would probably do the same with his property.

Mr. Malay said he felt this was a very appropriate use of money in the Town Conservation fund, which now totals about \$107,000. He noted that several properties in the area had changed hands recently and expressed concern that at least some of the buyers may have interest in developing their land.

Other Board members agreed that helping protect this property is an appropriate use of the Conservation Funds. They noted its proximity to Devils Den and to Merrymeeting Lake. Mr. Malay said it was a key piece of property in the Moose Mountain long-range vision of a swath of protected land running from near Lake Winnepesaukee to near the Maine border.

Cathy Allyn moved that the Commission ask David Allen to draft a letter that would pledge up to \$50,000 from the Conservation Fund to match federal grant money from the WRP program in support of purchase of a conservation easement on Map x, Lot y belonging to Sandra Hammond. The pledge lasts until December 31, 2014 and may be renewed if necessary. Commitment of the New Durham Conservation funds is dependent upon other funding, including but not limited to WRP funds, that total the full cost of the conservation easement. Bill Malay seconded. Approved unanimously.

Chair McHale said he would circulate the draft letter to commission members and to Keith Fletcher to ensure proper wording of the document.

Charlie Berube said he thought it would be possible to get a commitment of additional funds from the Merrymeeting Lake Association. He said he would pursue that with the Lake Association Board.

Town Master Plan: David Allen asked the commission to be actively involved in the Master Planning process. The commission should tell the Planning Board specific properties that are the highest priority for protection. He suggested that

the Conservation Commission meet with the Recreation Commission and discuss a long range Parks and Recreation Plan for the town that would target areas for protection and indicate multiple recreation and protection uses for these properties.

Cathy Allyn suggested working with the New Durham Elementary School to develop a Junior Conservation group in town.

Bill Malay proposed meeting with a representative of the NH Trails Bureau to understand what resources they might have that would be helpful to the Town. Paddy McHale recommended inviting the Town Forester to a meeting so the commission could understand the scope and limits of his responsibility.

Minutes: The Commission reviewed the minutes of July 31, 2012. **Charlie Berube moved to accept the minutes as presented. Bill Malay seconded. Approved unanimously.**

Charlie Berube moved to adjourn at 9:20 PM. Bill Malay seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

David Allen
Land Use Administrative Assistant