



**DRAFT
Conservation Commission
March 13, 2008**

Members Present: Bill Weiler, Chair; Katheryn Holmes, Vice-Chair; Bill Annable; Deane Geddes; Suzanne Levine; Eric Unger

Mr. Weiler called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and circulated a complete and final draft of the Conservation Plan for the commission members to review.

MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of February 12, 2008 and made corrections.

Ms. Holmes made a motion to accept the minutes of February 12, 2008 as amended. Mr. Unger seconded the motion. All in favor.

INTENTS TO CUT

Mr. Unger reported that there was one Intent to Cut filed.

Scott B. Hill – Tax Map/Lot 026-274-333. Mr. Hill is the property owner and logger for this parcel off Stoney Brook Road. The Intent proposes to cut 53 acres of a 53-acre lot resulting in 30,000 board feet of white pine, 10,000 board feet of hemlock, 6,000 board feet of spruce and fir, 6,000 board feet of beech & soft maple and various species of pulpwood.

Mr. Unger commented that 52,000 board feet is not much for a lot of this size, and he did not see any sign of wetlands. This lot is on the New London, Sutton and Newbury Town line with several hundred feet of road frontage.

WETLANDS

There were no Wetlands Board Applications filed for review.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Weiler read his letter of resignation to the Board of Selectmen for serving on the Conservation Commission dated March 10, 2008 into the minutes as follows:

Gentlemen: I have been a member of the conservation Commission for thirteen years except for five months when I filled in as selectman. Over that time, the Commission has grown and become more relevant. In view of the increasing responsibilities in other areas that are of interest to me, I think now is the time for me to step down. Therefore it is with some regret that I submit my resignation effective March 14, 2008. I wish to thank the Board and town for the privilege of serving. I found my service satisfying and enjoyable. I recommend that Deane Geddes, who is now an alternate, be appointed as a full member to fill out the remaining year of my term.

Mr. Weiler read an email from Ms. Poole into the minutes regarding future plans:

Thank you, Bill! It has been my pleasure to work with you and the Newbury Conservation Commission. Updating the Natural Resources Inventory and preparing the Townwide Conservation Plan were made so much easier because of the hard work and dedication of your members. The comments and suggestions I received from you and Frank Perrotta were especially helpful in tightening up text and clarifying technical terms.

As the Town moves forward in implementing the recommendations contained in the Plan, please contact me if I can be of assistance. I am particularly interested in working with the Town to:

- 1. Conduct a comprehensive environmental review and evaluation of the adequacy of existing ordinances, policies and regulations;*
- 2. Develop a prioritized list of important land areas to protect; and,*
- 3. Develop property-specific managements plans for Town-owned conservation lands.*

Whether you serve in on the Commission or not, I have a hunch several of the recommendations are already on your 'to-do' list and you will work to make them happen! Again, it's been a pleasure working with you...

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Plan

Ms. Levine suggested that Loa Winter should be included on the list of acknowledgements for her contribution of sketches used as illustrations throughout the Conservation Plan.

Mr. Weiler informed the Commission members that the Conservation Plan and the NRI Addendum still need to be published and offered to continue with the publishing effort after his resignation.

The sense of the Commission members was that the members would be grateful to Mr. Weiler for following through with the completion and publication of the Conservation Plan and the NRI Addendum.

Mr. Weiler informed the Commission members that the contract with Anne Poole has been completed and paid for. He stated that he will come back to the Conservation Commission in April with quotes for printing.

The sense of the Commission members was that 100 copies of the NRI Addendum and 100 copies of the Conservation Plan ought to be enough.

Mrs. Holmes commented that, for the record, the actual and complete cost of the Conservation Plan and the NRI Addendum should be documented in one statement for future reference.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections

Mr. Weiler informed the Commission members that Clare Bensley has verbally resigned from the Conservation Commission. Currently, there are two terms expiring in 2008 (Suzanne & Frank), one in 2009 (Bill) and two in 2010 (Katheryn & Eric). Mr. Weiler commented that typically the Chair would make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for appointment to the Conservation Commission. That person is then appointed to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term. Under the circumstances, he suggested that Mrs. Holmes make those recommendations.

Clear-cutting

Mr. Weiler suggested that the Commission look into introducing a regulation against clear-cutting since silvaculturally, clear-cutting has a significant amount of negative impact on the environment.

Mr. Weiler stated that the Commission members are all invited to call upon him at anytime to talk or ask his advice and/or opinion on any matters. He stated that he is happy to stay in touch.

Mr. Annable made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Geddes seconded the motion. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Plunkett

