



**Conservation Commission
February 12, 2008**

Members Present: Bill Weiler, Chair; Katheryn Holmes, Vice-Chair; Bill Annable; Frank Perrotta; Eric Unger

MINUTES

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of January 8, 2008 and made corrections.

Ms. Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2008 as corrected. Mr. Unger seconded the motion. All in Favor.

INTENTS TO CUT

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

Susan Powers and Jane M. Grant – Tax Map/Lot 045-219-192. The Logger/Forester is Richard Messer, the land is to be accessed off Pleasant View Road in Bradford. The Intent proposes to cut 40 of 110 acres resulting in 75,000 mbf of pine, 80 tons of pine pulpwood and 10 cords of fuel wood.

The Commission reviewed the tax maps to orient themselves as to exactly where this lot is located.

Mr. Unger clarified for Ms. Holmes that when an intent to cut is filed, he reviews the intent and is cognizant of the wetland locations. He commented that although this intent sounds like a lot of wood to be cut, it is not an exorbitant amount for this size lot. He explained that 1000 board feet is equivalent to approximately 2 cords of wood, and one log truck can haul approximately 5,000 – 6,000 board feet at a time.

WETLANDS

There were no Wetlands Board Applications filed since January.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications, letters in or letter out since January.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Resignation

Mr. Weiler commented that he would like to see the Conservation Plan completed before he steps down as Chair.

Conservation Plan

Mr. Weiler explained that Ms. Poole was going to come to the meeting this evening and discuss the conclusions and recommendations. Due to the weather, she is not coming. Therefore, he suggested that the Commission Members should go through the conclusions and recommendations, discuss them and then decide if another meeting should be scheduled with Ms. Poole for discussion. He recommended, in the interest of time, the plan should be finished without a hearing for public comment.

Ms. Holmes commented that the Plan is a good document and will make a good tool to educate people. She stated that the content is good, but the format is not strong. She added that it would be more helpful if the document was more specific to Newbury.

Mr. Weiler agreed and pointed out that it is not an easy document to read since it contains a lot of technical information. He suggested hiring a separate contractor to provide the specifics for carrying out the recommendations as suggested in the plan.

Mr. Perrotta commented that he sees the document as a useful tool just the way it is written.

Mr. Weiler stated that a Conservation Plan should indicate what land should be protected and not developed. This plan does not do that.

The sense of the Commission Members was to 1. Hire out a report to be kept internally for reference on specific properties and areas that should be protected; and 2. Ask Ms. Poole to prepare a clear and concise list of what the issues are and then make parallel statements of what the recommendations should be to address those issues. The issues should also reference the maps.

Mr. Weiler stated that he will forward Mr. Perrotta's Preface to Ms. Poole for inclusion in the plan.

The Commission Members reviewed Mr. McWilliams' list of suggestions for the Conservation Plan Recommendations and decided to send the following to Ms. Poole for inclusion in the Plan:

1. The Conservation Commission working in concert with other outside organizations should educate landowners and the general public about the benefits of conservation. (Mr. McWilliams' #8)
2. Currently 50% of the Land Use Change Tax Penalty under the Current Use Program goes to the Conservation Fund. The Town should work towards achieving a 100% allocation towards the conservation Fund. A larger allocation towards the Conservation Fund will provide the Town a better opportunity to help replace some of the lost open space through use of the Conservation Fund. (Mr. McWilliams' #6)
3. The Conservation Commission should develop a prioritized list of important properties to protect. (Mr. McWilliams' #7)

Conservation News Bulletin

Mr. Weiler, with the individual permission of the Commission Members, will give the members' email addresses to the publisher of the Conservation News Bulletin.

Ms. Holmes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Unger seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Plunkett