

North Hampton Conservation Commission  
June 10, 2003 – Minutes

**1) Roll Call**

Chairman Mixter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Henry Mixter, Chairman; Chris Ganotis, Vice Chairman/Treasurer; Christine Butcher; Shirley Carter, Alternate; Charles (Chuck) Gordon; Patty O'Connor; and Rob Pruyne.

**2) Public Hearing: Transfer of Former Wildlife Preserve Properties to Audubon Society of New Hampshire**

Joanna Magoon, Land Protection of Coordinator for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire was present for the hearing. Chairman Mixter explained the ownership history of the 14 wildlife parcels. Mr. Gordon further outlined the statutory process and time period legally required prior to the Town taking title to the properties. Inasmuch as all legal remedies have been accomplished, the land can now be transferred from the Town of North Hampton to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire after this public hearing.

Public Hearing open.

James Carolan, 11 Runneymede Drive, told the Commission that in speaking with the neighbors, they are all in favor of the transfer. He asked if there would be any active use of the land.

**3) Public Hearing closed at 7:36 p.m.**

Mr. Gordon said that the Selectmen wanted to make sure that the Town would be able to continue both placing larvicide for mosquito control if necessary, and monitoring of any other activity in the marsh necessitated by public safety concerns that are consistent with applicable New Hampshire regulations. He indicated that the Audubon Society has requested an endowment of \$10,000 to aid in their caretaking of the property.

Mr. Gordon indicated that the original deed provisions stipulating the continuance as a nature preserve with no development would continue with this transfer to the Audubon Society. Joanna Magoon said that while boardwalks will not be constructed, there may be bird watcher groups on the land. She further explained that it is the Society's intention for this to be an ecological reserve model. A discussion followed regarding the best manner in which to monitor, govern, and maintain the best ecological management practices.

*After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to close the public hearing. Mr. Gordon *motioned* that, after a public hearing duly held, the Conservation Commission recommends to the Board of Selectmen the transfer of the 14 wildlife preserve parcels now owned by the Town to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, upon receipt of a letter from the Audubon Society of New Hampshire agreeing to accept title to such parcels and confirming the Town's right to conduct larvicide activities and such other conditions that the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and the Town shall mutually agree to. Mrs. Carter *seconded*. Vote: *Motion passes unanimously*.

Mr. Gordon *motioned* that upon transfer of title of these parcels to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the Conservation Commission authorizes the Town of North Hampton to pay to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire the sum of \$10,000 from the Conservation Commission's Capital Reserve

Fund Number Eight as requested by the Society as their minimum endowment requirement for its monitoring activities with respect to these parcels. Mr. Ganotis *seconded*. Vote: *Motion passes unanimously*.

**4) Open Regulation Conservation Commission Meeting**

**5) Items from the Chairman**

Status of Conservation Easement List for RPC and Monitoring and Inspection of Properties

Patty O'Connor's June 6, 2003 memorandum regarding the Baseline Documentation Project was reviewed and discussed. She suggested and the members agreed that Rob Pruyne continue working on the project whenever he is available.

Posting of Properties in LRSM

Mrs. Carter provided estimates and drawings of a proposed sign for the Shirley Fogg property. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to authorize \$650 to produce and install a sign for the Shirley Fogg property.

**6) Consideration of Minutes – May 13, 2003**

*After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to approve the Minutes of May 13, 2003 with the following amendments:

Page 1, roll call: delete "Rockingham Planning Commission" after Rob Pruyne's name under those present for meeting.

Page 2, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph re: "Posting of other properties within the Town...": Delete last sentence and replace with "*Rob Pruyne agreed to assist the Commission with monitoring the Conservation easements*".

**7) Treasurer's Report – Financial Statement through April 30, 2003**

*After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to accept the report as presented.

**8) Correspondence**

5/15/03 letter to the Conservation Commission from Robert Holley of the Student Conversation Association re: thank you for contribution.

**9) Other Business**

Members talked about the need for an official notebook to be kept in the Town offices. Janet will look into this with Michael Pardue.

Mrs. O'Connor asked about the status of the Little River culvert restoration and discussion followed.

*After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Perkins  
Secretary