

## NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 11, 2006 - Minutes

### 1) ROLL CALL

Present when the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. was Chris Ganotis, Chairman, Lee Brooks, Shirley Carter, Stan Knowles, Patty O'Connor, John Peterson and Alternate Brian Chevalier. Members welcomed Selectmen's Representative Emily Creighton to her first meeting with the Commission.

Chris asked and received permission from the Commission to deviate from the order of the published agenda.

### 2) NEW BUSINESS

#### 57 Woodland Road protection initiatives

Speaking on behalf of the parcel's donor, Denis Kokernak, Attorney Peter Loughlin thanked the Commission for hearing this agenda item first to accommodate his other commitment later in the evening. He addressed his July 10, 2006 letter with the attached *Application to the Selectmen to call a Special Town Meeting* for conveyance of a conservation easement to an independent land trust organization for the property at 57 Woodland Road. He said that, ultimately, the Conservation Commission would be asked this evening to support the prepared petition for the Special Town Meeting on September 19, 2006. Attorney Loughlin told the members that the petition is a mandatory notice and explained that once the protection is agreed upon with a third party as stipulated in the petition this will best secure the conservation easement. The independent, third party would be responsible for the monitoring and stewardship of the property.

Selectmen's representative Emily Creighton asked if the deed dictates the use of the parcel, why could not the deed be changed rather than conveying the property to a third party for protection. Attorney Loughlin responded that no one can change the deed language as the warrant article in 2001 was approved by a majority vote; the special town meeting will be a conveyance of the interest in the deed to a third party through a conservation easement. He said this was the only recourse to guarantee that the property would be conveyed. Emily also inquired as to how the Special Town Meeting would be of no cost to the Town as indicated on the citizens' petition.

Discussion followed about expected costs associated with both the monitoring of the easement and election expenses.

Public comment came from Robert Field, Mill Road, spoke to the Commission about strengthening the process of securing conservation easements, and asked the Commission to unanimously act to protect conservation land so that it does not succumb to future development.

***After a motion duly seconded, it was unanimously voted (8-0)*** to endorse and support the Petition to the Board of Selectmen for a Special Town Meeting on September 19, 2006 as presented to the Conservation Commission to see if the town will convey a Conservation Easement (at no expense to the Town) to an independent land trust organization for the property known as Tax Map 006, Lot 052, 57 Woodland Road.

Conservation members next reviewed Chris's comments which were entered into the record at the June 26, 2006 Board of Selectmen meeting. He spoke about the favorable editorials for a conservation

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*These minutes were approved by a majority vote of the Conservation Commission at the August 8, 2006 meeting.*

easement at 57 Woodland Road, and a circulating petition in favor of keeping the land as conservation land. *After a motion duly seconded, it was unanimously voted (8-0)* to seek support from other conservation-minded organization: NH Conservation Law Foundation, NH Association of Conservation Commissions, NH Attorney General's Office Charitable Gifts Division, Seacoast Land Trust/Rockingham Land Trust, RPC Conservation Circuit Rider, New Hampshire Society for the Protection of Forests and the abutters' ad hoc committee.

## 2) **OLD BUSINESS**

### Eagle Scout Candidate Colin Gagnon - project update

Members agreed to have Colin consider changing his parking proposal to the eastern section under the utilities wires.

### Boies Conservation Land - boundary line issue update

Correspondence from the Conservation Commission has been sent to the Town attorney with a request to notify the neighbor of the shed encroachment onto the conservation parcel.

### Fogg Conservation Land - trespass problem

Members agreed that Lee would call the property owner to let him know that the log road is to be used for the removal of timber and not for vehicular activity.

## 3) **OTHER BUSINESS**

### Resignation of Chuck Gordon

Members accepted, with regret, Chuck's resignation, acknowledging his many contributions and service over ten years. They noted that Chuck was instrumental in many of the Commission's major achievements including the Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project, North Hampton Forever, and drafting of numerous easements, correspondence and other documents too numerous to list. Chuck served the Town well, both by his detailed knowledge of conservation matters and by his willingness to express new ideas and views to advance conservation goals. Chuck's dedicated service will be missed by all and the Conservation Commission extended sincere appreciation for his hard work and wished him the very best in the years ahead.

### Estuaries Grant – Chris Kane

After initial inspection, Chris is proposing a stewardship plan with a strategic land protection component. This would entail researching the actual protected properties and expanding on the worksheet completed by Rob Pruyne and Patty, Stan and Shirley. Members agreed that Chris Kane should concentrate on the largest conservation parcels and will plan to have him attend a future meeting.

### Appointment of Brian as a full member

Chuck's resignation now creates a vacancy for a full member and consensus was to welcome Brian aboard to fill the opening. One full member and one alternate position will be advertised on the Town's website.

#### 4) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

##### Co-chair/Vice-chair and Treasurer

Chris asked if anyone would be interested in co-chairing or as Vice Chair and of assuming the Treasurer position. John volunteered to assume the role as Treasurer. There is also an opening on North Hampton Forever that no member of the Commission volunteered to assume. This position will also be posted on the web site.

#### 5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES - *June 13, 2006*

*After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted* with Brian and Emily abstaining to approve the June amended minutes.

#### 6) TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report and Annual Fiscal 2006 report are attached to these minutes. They are subject to approval in the August meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Perkins  
Secretary