

## NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 21, 2006 Public Hearing- Minutes

### 1) ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Chris Ganotis, Chairman, John Peterson, Treasurer, Lee Brooks, Brian Chevalier, Stan Knowles, Patty O'Connor and Alternate Lisa Wilson attending.

### 2) PUBLIC HEARING

To consider the purchase of land from the Trust for Public Land, d/b/a TPL-New Hampshire, for \$1.4 million, with US Coastal and Land Conservation Program grant funds of \$1.4 million from the US Government. The parcels are referenced in the North Hampton Tax Map as Page 21, Lot 45 and Page 22, Lot 3 and will be subject to conservation easements to be held by the Southeast Land Trust of NH.

Phil Wilson of NH *Forever* presented the proposal for the Winnicut Headwaters II grant. He explained that the property would be sold to the Trust for Public Land who will then convey it to North Hampton. The owners have reserved the right to use the land for cross-country skiing as they have been doing on the property over the years. Phil talked about land previously acquired, which can be used as the qualifying match criteria. He reported that NH *Forever* recommends the approval of the fee simple acquisition of this property to the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission.

Questions from the Commission members included whether an environmental assessment had been completed. It was reported that this was completed with the appraisal information.

### 3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rachel Knight asked why this parcel was attractive for conservation land. Members explained that by placing the land in conservation, the Town will be protecting the wildlife habitat and preventing housing development and related education costs. This purchase will most importantly protect the groundwater and the wetlands. It also provides opportunities for passive recreation such as hiking, picnicking, and cross-country skiing. By placing this land in conservation, it will be protecting the headwaters of the Winnicut watershed area.

Eric Knight inquired about the previous purchases being used as matching funds. Phil explained that the Cahill land donation accounts for the largest portion of the match and commended them for their generosity. He also explained that the majority of the legal and engineering expenses associated with this land purchase will be paid by TPL.

There were no further comments from the public at this time.

***After a motion, duly seconded,*** it was voted to adjourn the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Perkins  
Secretary

NHCC PH 11-21-06

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*Note: These minutes were approved by a majority vote of the Conservation Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting on December 12, 2006.*