

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 9, 2007 - Minutes

1) ROLL CALL

Present when the meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. was Chris Ganotis, Chairman, Lee Brooks, Brian Chevalier, Stan Knowles, Patty O'Connor and Alternate Phillip Thayer.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 12, 2005

- Public Hearing Minutes

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted 4-0 in favor, with Patty and Brian abstaining, to approve the minutes as amended.

- Regular Business Meeting Minutes

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted 4-0 in favor, with Patty and Brian abstaining, to approve the minutes as amended.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT – Tabled until next meeting

4) OTHER BUSINESS

Boies Parcel

The building, encroaching on the Conservation land, has not been removed from the property. The attorney will be preparing a court order activating fines and penalties.

Greystone Development Conservation Easement Monitoring Donation

The December 13, 2005 letter reviewed at last month's meeting to Greystone was sent; however, no response has yet been received.

Stewardship by Third Party Trusts

Members talked about the need to educate the public regarding third party trusts and the purposes. Information will be provided in the next town newsletter and possibly on Channel 22. There was not enough time to prepare a warrant article before the filing deadline.

Fuller Foundation Wildlife Protection Grant

Chris reported that he has worked with Matt Tarr of the UNH Cooperative Extension Service in completing the \$7,500 grant application for wildlife protection. They identified six of the largest and more recent conservation easement parcels with the intention of completing an inventory of the natural resources on the parcels coupled with an assessment of the wildlife habitat. Chris circulated the proposal for Commission review prior to submittal to the Fuller Foundation.

Commission members talked about whether \$7,500 would be sufficient given the amount of combined acreage of the six parcels. Matt Tarr suggested retaining a Forrester for assessment. Discussion followed regarding the feasibility and practicalities of harvesting the timber. Members felt this was a good practice in protecting the integrity of both the forest and wildlife habitat. Stan suggested a future warrant article
NHCC 01-09-07

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designating some of the land as town forest as any grant funds or donations could then be deposited into a conservation fund and not the town's general fund. There was consensus that the Conservation Commission could then use any generated revenue for specific conservation purposes. Conservation Commission members expressed their support for this grant and agreed with a proactive direction for the Commission.

Colin Gagnon – Eagle Scout Project Update

Colin reported that he has almost completed flagging the trail. He has received the parking permit from the State, identified the three main trails of the plan and will provide projected expenses. Colin said he is ready to begin work on the parking lot, still needs to obtain permission from the landowners for trail access, and will measure the total distance of the trails.

Colin told the Commission that the tree tags and signs are being donated. He plans on having an outline/diagram of the trail at the parking lot and is contacting volunteer organizations to help with the construction of the wooden platforms. Members praised Colin's proposal and enthusiasm, pointing out that it is very industrious and ambitious. They suggested that he complete the trail in phases as he could begin the work on the first phase while applying for the necessary permits for the last.

Expedited Wetlands Permit - 54 Ocean Boulevard

Frank Richardson from DES relayed to Chris via telephone that it was unlikely that DES would approve the proposal presented by John Chagnon at last month's meeting. Mr. Richardson indicated that the applicant would most probably have to obtain a National EPA NPDES water discharge permit. Chris called John Chagnon and relayed this information.

5) NORTH HAMPTON FOREVER UPDATE

Chris reported that the Demogenes and Woods property transfers were completed on December 29th. He expressed his appreciation to the Board of Selectmen for their help in affecting the transfer.

He said there are other parcels under consideration and discussions are underway with the landowners. He spoke about working with the Heritage Commission as a valuable ally for assistance in gathering information about farms that have been put into conservation.

6) CORRESPONDENCE

Rob Pruyne – Rockingham Planning Commission

Rob will continue updating RPC's database listing of conservation parcels. Patty will coordinate her list with Rob's for completion.

Chris Kane – Estuaries Grant

The Conservation Commission's contract has been extended until the end of March. Mr. Kane is reconciling the deed restrictions and conservation easement parcels with the current list, identifying any acreage anomalies and those parcels that are the most vulnerable from a protection standpoint.

Members again reiterated the policy of not accepting slivers of land placed in conservation in conjunction with a planning board subdivision application. They emphasized the importance of communication with the Planning Board prior to any conservation land offers by subdivision applicants. The policy statement sent to the Planning Board states that the Conservation Commission will not accept slivers of land; small NHCC 01-09-07

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parcels and any land to be placed in conservation must be reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission.

Chris Kane will research the Evergreen Drive conservation parcel, as members did not recall any prior approval action. The Commission requested that Mr. Kane be invited to a meeting to report his work to date.

Confalone Rye Subdivision Request

Chris told the Commission that he sent a letter to Little Boar's Head Zoning and Planning Boards on behalf of the Conservation Commission recommending that LBH take no action until compliance with the restoration requirements set forth by the DES.

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Kokernak spoke to the members several times during the meeting. He said that the federal lawsuits filed by cellular phone companies Cingular and Verizon against North Hampton have been dropped by the plaintiffs. He spoke in favor of placing conservation land in third party trusts and offered to share his documents with the Conservation Commission from the Southeast New Hampshire Land Trust.

During the discussion about the Conservation Commission's easement acceptance policy, Mr. Kokernak suggested defining the requirements for placing land in protection in the Zoning Ordinance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Perkins
Secretary