

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 13, 2007 - 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, Brian Chevalier, Stan Knowles, Patty O'Connor and Alternates Philip Thayer and Lisa Wilson.

**2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES – January 9, 2007**

*After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to approve the minutes as presented.

**3) TREASURER'S REPORTS –January 2007**

In the absence of John, Chris reported the following: Citizens Bank statements through January 31, 2007 for the Little River Salt Marsh, \$17,358.08; William Fowler Memorial Fund, \$30,149.26. Centrix Bank statement dated January 5, 2007 for CD's from Capital Reserve Fund Number 8, market value \$253,137.00. January expenses were \$67.50 for secretarial services. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to approve the report as read.

**4) NEW BUSINESS**

Planning Board Review – James & Karen Confalone, subdivision plan at Map 5 Lots 12, 13 and 14  
Members agreed to provide the Planning Board with a copy of the Commission's letter that was sent to Little Boar's Head regarding this application.

Standard Dredge and Fill Application - Sagamore Golf Inc., Map 17, Lot 108

After reviewing the application and plan, members felt there were not concerns from a conservation standpoint. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to approve the application.

Members terms expiration in 2007 (Brian, Stan, Patty)

All expressed a desire to continue serving the Town and Commission. They will write letters of continued interest to the Board of Selectmen and ask to be re-appointed.

Saturday, February 17 records organization in storage area at Town Office

Volunteers agreed to meet at the Town Office at 8:30 to begin the process of sorting through, organizing, and filing the Commission's records. Shirley offered, with the Commission's endorsement, to sort through the many boxes from Henry Mixer.

A discussion ensued regarding the importance of continuing to identify the town-owned and conservation easement parcels throughout the Town. They felt it was important to place conservation easements in third party stewardships, education the residents about this, and the need for proper documentation for tax deduction purposes. Chris Kane will be invited to the March meeting provide an update on his baseline documentation project.

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*Disclaimer: Minutes prepared pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:2,II. They will be approved by a majority vote of the Conservation Commission at the next regularly scheduled meeting.*

### Colin Gagnon – Eagle Project

Colin reported that he has received the parking permit from the State. He provided a sketch of the different boardwalk designs and is going to walk the area with a representative from the Urban Forestry Center to determine which design which best suit the wettest part of the path. Colin told the Commission that the sign company is donating the roadside trail sign, boundary sign, and tree identification tags. Patty will provide a contract for Colin to present to the landowners for signatures. He is waiting for Scout Council approval of the project. Chris offered to provide any endorsement or assistance Colin needs in obtaining approval from the Council.

### Boies Parcel – building encroachment

The building inspector is meeting with the Town's attorney to initiate legal action inasmuch as the building has not been removed from the property. Chris read the letter from Ken Stern of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests indicating the Society's continued support of the Commission's endeavor in removing the encroachment.

### Greystone Development

The February 1, 2007 letter to the Commission from Attorney John Allen re: Greystone Village Conservation Easement monitoring donation. The September 13 and 22, 2005 Conservation Commission minutes were reviewed. Chris proposed that the Planning Board not release the surety bond until the payment, as stipulated in Chris's letter to Greystone, is honored. He told the Commission he would respond to Mr. Allen indicating that there was no mention of a monetary amount in the minutes nor does the Commission recall any monetary amount mentioned.

### Stewardship by Third Party Trusts

The South East Land Trust has drafted the easement for 57 Woodland. Michelle Peckham will be retained on behalf of the Conservation Commission to review the language. The easement will then be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for their signature pursuant to the affirmative vote from the special town meeting.

### Fuller Foundation Proposal

The Commission will be notified by John Bottomley, Executive Director, Fuller Foundation when the grants are awarded.

### Conservation Signs

Signs needed for the Luff, Dustin, and Wood parcels. They will be similar to the Marston and Leavitt Farm signs. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to authorize Chris to expend up to \$3,000 from Capital Reserve Number 8 for the purchase and installation of the three signs.

### Septic Seepage

Philip and Shirley reported overflow noted at The Maids building location. Since it is not within the Commission's purview, Philip will notify the building inspector.

## **5) NORTH HAMPTON FOREVER UPDATE**

An updated newsletter is being sent to residents about the newest conservation easements. The most recent two acquisitions placed 137 acres in conservation. Chris talked about the historical significance in keeping the parcels in the original farm names and enlisting the Heritage Commission to chronicle the

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histories of the farms. More information is needed on the Luff property, formerly known as the Forest Hills Farm.

NH Forever is looking into another federal grant. The Committee can use the two most current acquisitions towards the matching funds.

There are now nearly 1,000 acres in conservation in North Hampton. Members again discussed the importance of record keeping, parcel monitoring and reiterated that volunteer conservation commission members are very challenged for meeting the responsibility to monitor 1000 acres of Town Conservation land.. This is another example in favor of placing conservation easements in third party stewardships. The importance of educating the public about third party stewardship was discussed as many misunderstand and feel that local control is lost. Members agreed that the easement deed language actually protects the Town's interest.

## 6) CORRESPONDENCE

- The Kinsman DES application approval.
- DOT letter to Town re: Route 111 widening.
- SCA Annual Renewal, student donation. Discussion about informing local population of program and trying to encourage local participation at the high school level. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to donate \$300.00 with a preference for a Winnacunnet High School student.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Perkins  
Secretary