

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
April 17, 2007

1) ROLL CALL

Present when the hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. was Chris Ganotis, Chairman, Lee Brooks, Shirley Carter, Stan Knowles, Patty O'Connor, Alternate Lisa Wilson and Selectmen Representative Emily Creighton.

Chris reported that the public hearing notice was legally published in the Portsmouth Herald and posted in two public places in accordance with the applicable RSA's.

2) To consider recommendations from the North Hampton Forever Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission for the purchase of land and/or conservation easements as follows:

- a) A conservation easement on 25 +/- acres on a parcel of land owned by John and Cynthia Jenkins at 93 Exeter Road. The total purchase price of the easement is \$450,000 provided that the Town is awarded a grant in the amount of \$215,000 (48% of the purchase price) from the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program ("FRPP") of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. The balance of funds for the purchase (\$235,000) will be provided from North Hampton Forever Bond Funds approved by Town Meeting vote in 2001. The parcel is identified as Tax Map 9, Lot 33 in North Hampton, and subsequent to the acquisition, it will be subject to FRPP restrictions and other restrictions of the conservation easement.

NH Forever Co-chairs Phil Wilson and Tim Harned attended to make the recommendation to the Conservation Commission for the above purchase. Phil Wilson discussed the proposal as outlined above. He pointed out that the land is almost one hundred percent dry. He told the Commission that the closing is contingent on receiving the FRPP grant and that NH Forever is working with the Rockingham County Conservation District in writing the grant application. He expects the closing to be on or before September 28, 2007 and reiterated that there is no obligation by either party if the grant is not received.

Public Hearing Open for Comments: Having no comments from the public, the Public input portion of this hearing was closed.

- b) A continuance of the Public Hearing of April 3, 2007, for the purchase of a 2.8-acre parcel of land, referenced in North Hampton Tax Map Page 2, Lot 68, owned by the United Church of Christ, through a fee simple purchase in the amount of \$30,000.

Phil Wilson talked about the "twelve shares" parcels, stating this area is one of the few remaining undeveloped portions of land in North Hampton. He explained that NH Forever considers this transaction a strategic purchase in that acquiring this and certain other parcels will impede development. Phil talked about the ledge outcropping, wildlife abundance and proximity to the Fogg Conservation Land as other factors in making the purchase recommendation to the Conservation Commission.

Public Hearing Open for Comments: Having no comments from the public, the Public input portion of this hearing was closed.

Chris reviewed the purchase procedure for the Commission members. He indicated that the purchase and sales agreements have been signed conditional upon the approval process; the public hearing has been held by the Conservation Commission; and the Commission will next deliberate at its regular meeting to follow, a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted to adjourn the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Perkins
Secretary

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| *Note- These minutes were approved by a majority vote of the Conservation Commission on May 8, 2007.*

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