

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
January 8, 2008 - Minutes

1) ROLL CALL

Present when the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. was Chris Ganotis, Chair, Lee Brooks, Vice-Chair, Brian Chevalier, Stanley Knowles, and Alternate Lisa Wilson sitting in as a voting member. *Shirley Carter and Alternate Philip Thayer arrived later as indicated.*

2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES – December 11, 2007

After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted with Brian and Lisa abstaining to approve the minutes as presented.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT

The full report was tabled until John's return. Chris read the account balances from the most recent bank statement copies received. *Philip and Shirley arrived at this time.*

4) OLD BUSINESS

a. Colin Gagnon Eagle Scout Project status – Trail off Buckskin Lane
Colin provided photos of the bridge work completed on the trails thus far. He reported that Wickes Lumber and Home Depot have donated the wood for the bridges. Colin submitted an estimate from Timberline Signs of \$1,196.00 for a PVC backed sign with a printed vinyl trail map, town seal, enclosed exterior grade notice board with a lock and other features. He told the Commission members that Timberline has offered to reduce the cost to \$500.00 and will also provide smaller signs that will be posted along the trail way. Discussion followed regarding the sign location (not visible from the road) and appreciation of Timberline's generosity. *After a motion, duly seconded, it was voted* to use Conservation Commission funds in the amount of \$500.00 to pay for the sign.

Colin reviewed the tasks needing to be completed on the trail, which he expected to be done by the next meeting. He plans to institute the annual cleaning of the trail as a scout service project as a way for the site to be regularly maintained.

- b. North Hampton Forever update
- i. UCC deed – pending; heirs still being contacted/solicited.
 - ii. Jenkins easement – appraisal completed and RCCD compiling documents.
- c. Greystone Development – they are looking into a 3rd party stewardship for monitoring. Members agreed with a 3rd party stewardship provided it is RCCD, SELT or some other reputable organization.
- d. Dupont parcel, Map 017, Lot 041, Parcel 003 (next to Acura) – pending, no further action taken.

5) OTHER BUSINESS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. Scout Hunter Owen

Hunter next addressed the Commission regarding his upcoming Eagle Scout Project. Hunter is an eighth grade student at North Hampton School and shared his scouting experiences and badges received. He proposed reclaiming the Boies wildlife trail off Woodland Road as his project. Members recalled that the original owners did not want hiking trails as the intent was for the land to be used solely for wildlife preservation. He was advised to contact Eugenia Boies, the current property owner for approval and will report back at the February meeting.

b. Samantha Thayer – Senior Seminar Project

Samantha is proposing to do a historical overview of the Leavitt Farm for her high school senior seminar project. She will be meeting with her senior advisor for review and approval of the topic. Chris explained that the Commission is looking for a report or document that addresses the historical significance of this and other farms in Town. The project could include important land features and unusual items found on the properties.

b. Chris Albert – Jones and Beach Engineers

Chris presented a subdivision plan for property on River Road that includes impacting 9,000 square feet of wetlands to reach buildable uplands in the rear. Chris said the Planning Board Conditional Use Application is being heard in February and the proposal will also require a NHDES Standard Dredge and Fill Permit. He pointed out the proposed driveway and locations and reported that the test pits have been completed. Members suggested that a site walk could be scheduled for the future and thanked Chris for the overview.

c. Term expiration – Shirley and Stan Lee (amended at 02/12/08 meeting)

They will write letters to the Board of Selectmen if they are interested in being re-appointed.

6) CORRESPONDENCE

a. Hampton Conservation Commission

Chris read the December letter from Nathan Page of the Hampton Conservation Commission regarding Map 002, Lot 071. Members discussed the value of the parcel, as it is part of the original “Twelve Shares”. Chris talked about North Hampton Forever purchasing parcels within the twelve shares as it can prevent the parcels from being amalgamated and developed. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted that Chris contact Nathan Page of the Hampton Conservation Commission to pursue and accept the land offer.

b. Zoning Board of Adjustment

The January 22, 2008 agenda reviewed. Items listed as continuances have already received suggestions and/or recommendations from the Conservation Commission, which was discussed at the November meeting. Members reiterated their responsibility pursuant to the RSA, which dictates the role of the Commission in reporting recommendations to the ZBA and Planning Board. They agreed that notifying applicants (as suggested by the ZBA) does not fall within the purview of the Conservation Commission.

d. Planning Board – nothing received.

NHCC 01/08/08

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These minutes were approved by a majority vote of the Conservation Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 12, 2008.

e. Wildlife Habitat Report

Members agreed that the report, which was produced with funds from the Fuller Grant Foundation, is an excellent publication and should be available for the public. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted that the Conservation Commission will spend the necessary funds to make fifteen copies for distribution within the town and that Chris will provide an article for a press release to the newspaper about the report and available copies.

f. Little River Salt Marsh

Discussion followed regarding the need for the invasive phragmite removal from the salt marsh. Funds are available from several sources (resident donation, NH Coastal Program, grant) to help with the \$25,000 approximate clean up cost. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to use funds from the William Fowler account for invasive species clean up in the Little River Salt Marsh.

f. NH Estuaries Project

The Community Technical Assistance Program RFP was reviewed. Funds can be used to educate and increase community awareness about the importance of maintaining and protecting wetlands setbacks. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to authorize Chris to complete the program application for submittal.

g. Current Use Land Payment

A check for payment for Current Use (\$25,497) was recently received by the Conservation Commission, which had been previously deposited into the Town's general fund. Chris reported that the payment has now been correctly deposited into the Capital Reserve Funds Number 8.

h. Dalton Tree Farm Warrant Article

Members agreed that the Dalton Tree Farm is an excellent property, which deserves to be designated as a Town Forrest. While the Town meets most of the criteria set forth by the RSA, a management plan needs to be completed by a licensed forester at an estimated cost of \$2,500 to \$3,000. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was voted to spend up to \$3,000 for a Forest Management Plan completed by a licensed forester after the Board of Selectmen sponsor the warrant article but not until after the warrant article is approved at the March 2008 Town meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Perkins
Secretary