

1) ROLL CALL

Present when the meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. was Chris Ganotis, Chair, Lee Brooks, Vice-Chair, Shirley Carter, Stanley Knowles, and Alternates Lisa Wilson and Philip Thayer. *Patty O'Connor arrived later as indicated.*

2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES . January 8, 2008

The minutes were amended to reflect that Lee and Shirley's terms expire this year, not Stanley as reported. *After a motion, duly seconded,* it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes as amended.

3) TREASURER'S REPORT

A full report will be provided upon John's return. Chris reported that the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) fee for completing the Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project (LRSMRP) Phase II grant application is \$900. *After a motion, duly seconded,* it was unanimously voted to approve the \$900 payment to RCCD.

*Patty arrived at this time.*

4) OLD BUSINESS

a. Colin Gagnon Eagle Scout Project status

Colin reported that the sign is done and will be installed next week. The trail is mostly cleared and marked and all but one bridge is constructed. He talked about the final work needed and, weather and field conditions permitting, will walk the trail with the Conservation Commission members. Members discussed the location for the sign and Colin will return to the March meeting with his final report.

b. Dupont parcel, Map 017, Lot 041, Parcel 003 (next to Acura)

The owner has been contacted regarding the Conservation Commission's offer to purchase the land for either a nominal fee or to accept an outright donation of the property. He has indicated that he will get back in touch once he returns from Florida. Members opined that the property is not buildable, mostly wet, and would likely require major DES dredge and fill permits.

c. Neil Moore parcel, Map 002, Lot 071 (twelve shares)

Mr. Moore has decided, upon talking with his family, not to sell the property at this time.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Little River Salt Marsh, Phase II

The grant application was completed by RCCD and submitted to DES, Coastal Program on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Funds will be used to develop a plan and permitting for a project to 1) restore the Salt Marsh to its natural state, 2) open up the tidal flow so the fish will return and then consume the mosquito larvae, and 3) remove or reduce the invasive plant species.

RCCD will be preparing the restoration plan. Chris indicated that the Conservation Commission will be submitting a proposal to NRCS, USDA for a grant for the plan implementation, including marsh excavation.

NHCC 02/12/08

1

---

*These minutes were approved by a majority vote of the Conservation Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 11, 2008.*

ve Session on Feb 2 and was approved for the March 11<sup>th</sup> town

6) CORRESPONDENCE

a. Zoning Board of Adjustment

i. Pool construction within 100-foot wetland setback, 11 Cotton Farm Lane,  
Map 006 Lot 133-012

Members reviewed plan sheets C1 and C2. They noted that the furthest point of the pool is 62 feet from the wetlands and the proposed fence, as constructed, would be 13 feet from the wetlands setback. Discussion followed regarding containment of surface water runoff and drainage flow onto the abutting conservation land behind the property and the pool chemicals that could contaminate the wetlands. Members pointed out that not only is the entire pool area itself considered an impervious surface, the surrounding area is normally finished with another impervious material which further increases runoff to the wetlands. There were comments made regarding increasing numbers of swimming pools being constructed in the wetlands buffers and concerns expressed about the deterioration of the buffers with such continued encroachments to the wetlands. The plan review also revealed that the proposed pool (not including the finished area around it) would be encroaching 38 feet into the 100-foot wetland setback.

Members also discussed the initial subdivision approval requiring pervious surfaces for the driveways on Cotton Farm Lane; noting that the driveways have since been paved. There was consensus among the members about the increase of even more runoff to the abutting conservation land. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was unanimously voted that the Conservation Commission recommend denying the variance because the pool and the surrounding surface area is located within the 100-foot setback with the potential for surface water runoff adversely affecting the abutting Conservation wetlands.

b. Planning Board

i. Greystone Development

The developer is reportedly attempting to find a land trust to take over the monitoring. Discussion followed about the necessary procedures the Conservation Commission will need to take should Greystone not abide by their agreement to pay for the monitoring.

ii. River Road driveway (see January minutes)

The Conditional Use Permit application was denied by the Planning Board; as such no further review by the Conservation Commission is necessary.

iii. Town Zoning Ordinance, Conservation sub-divisions

Planning Board chairman Phil Wilson explained the proposed ordinance to the members. The design allows frontage, side and lot size relief in exchange for 50% of the buildable land to be put into conservation with the easement to be held by a third party. While it allows homes to be placed closer together, it provides for open space in Conservation.

## COMMENTS

a. Term expiration . Shirley and Lee.

They will submit letters of request to be reappointed to the Selectmen.

b. Current Use

Two properties were recently taken out of current use and the mechanisms are confirmed for funds to be deposited to Capital Reserve Account Number 8.

c. 2007 Annual Report

Chris summarized the Conservation Commission's report. Some of the items included for the residents to read about are the conservation land inventory, NH Forever acquisitions, the importance of protecting wetland buffers, defending conservation land, the grants received by the Commission, the wildlife assessment, the eagle scout project, and the Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project, Phase II.

d. Budget Committee Survey

Results of the Budget Committee's survey were discussed with the members generally pleased with the ratings of the Conservation Commission.

e. NH Forever pending acquisitions

The Jenkins appraisal for a conservation easement has been completed and is now at the State review level; the United Church of Christ title search has located some heirs who are now in negotiation with the church.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Perkins  
Secretary