

1) ROLL CALL

Present when the meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. was Chris Ganotis, Chairman, Lee Brooks, Vice-Chair, Shirley Carter, Brian Chevalier, John Peterson, and Alternate Philip Thayer. *Lisa Wilson and Patty O'Connor arrived later as indicated.*

2) CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES . February 12, 2008

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

3) TREASURER'S REPORT - February 2008

Members agreed to table the full report until the April meeting.

4) OLD BUSINESS

a) Colin Gagnon Eagle Scout Project status

Colin provided an update on the outstanding items needed for the trail. He has finished the final cutting from the last bridge to the starting point and has marked the field. *Patty arrived at this time.* He confirmed his conversation with Chris that the northern portion of the trail is in Greenland and is trying to get permission for access. A sign will be posted at that location alerting hikers that they are leaving the North Hampton trail and crossing into Greenland.

Benches will be located at the entrance sign and at the tip of the trail at Winnicut River. Colin thanked Home Depot for donating the lumber and Timberline Sign for making the signs. Members talked about videotaping a hike and the ribbon cutting for broadcasting on Channel 22 as one way to spread the word about the trail. Chris will also be preparing a news release for the newspaper.

b) Dupont Property, Map 017, Lot 041, Parcel 003, Lafayette Road

Mr. Dupont has offered to donate the property to the town after considering the Commission's offer of \$300/acre for encumbered wetlands and \$500 to \$1,000/acre for unencumbered wetlands. He also requested that the Town pay any outstanding taxes. Members discussed putting the property into a third party conservation easement and questioned the property tax status. There was a consensus to acquire the property since it is at the headwater of the Little River and for the inhabiting wildlife. *After a motion, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen acceptance of Map 017, Lot 041-003 if the taxes due to the Town of North Hampton are less than \$1,000.*

5) NEW BUSINESS

a) Zoning Board of Adjustment

Construction of new septic system within seventy-five feet of wetlands and erection of a new home within fifty feet of an inland wetland. Map 006, Lot 040, Maple Road.

Members reviewed the plan and noted the relocation of the septic system. They expressed deep concern that the house will be located six feet from the wetlands; or, ninety-four (94) feet into the wetlands buffer. Members discussed the disturbance and removal of wetlands soils should and the type and amount of fill that would be brought in should construction be approved. *After a motion, duly seconded, it was unanimously voted that the Conservation Commission recommends denying the plan because the house will be six feet from the wetlands buffer and could damage the wetlands.*

Mr. Kane recently submitted five reports and a proposal for eleven additional properties. Discussion ensued about prioritizing the next list of properties on which to have baseline documentation reports completed. They also discussed completing reports on the remaining NH Forever properties and those parcels over five acres. Chris will ask the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) for an estimate on their fees to complete the reports. There was a general consensus to continue to secure third party trusts for conservation easement land as the monitoring is then completed by the third party entity. Members will prioritize at the April meeting the next parcels for baseline reports.

Little River Salt Marsh Phase II

The grant application was completed and submitted by RCCD. The Town's matching funds (approximately \$15,000) are available in the Little River Salt Marsh account and from private donations. This grant will pay for the restoration plan and the pending NRCS grant application will cover the actual work on the marsh. According to RCCD, NRCS grant funds are available and the project can be completed in phases or sections. *After a motion, duly seconded*, it was unanimously voted to authorize Chris to sign the NRCS grant application contingent upon receiving grant funds from the DES Coastal Program for the restoration plan.

Re-appointments to Commission

Shirley has already submitted her letter requesting reappointment and Lee will prepare his immediately.

Press Releases and Information to the Public

Newspapers articles regarding the recent wildlife assessment report and the wetlands protection grant should be published shortly. Chris is submitting an article from the Conservation Commission for the next Town newsletter, which will highlight the recent accomplishments of the Commission. The article will also explain the importance of protecting the wetland buffers. Members felt the newsletter was an excellent method for residents to learn more about the efforts of the Commission.

Senior Seminar

Phil reported that Samantha completed and submitted her Senior Seminar project on the historical overview of the Leavitt farm, which will be available to the Commission after grading.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Perkins
Secretary