

**Meeting Minutes
North Hampton Conservation Commission
December 13, 2011**

Administrative

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM. Present were Chris Ganotis (Chair), Lee Brooks (Vice Chair), John Peterson (Treasurer), Rick Stoklosa, Lisa Wilson, Alternate and Phil Wilson, Select Board Representative.

Consideration of Minutes

Minutes of the November 8, 2011 Meeting

After review of the November 8, 2011 minutes, a motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Rick Stoklosa, to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

John Peterson presented the report. *After review of the report, a motion was made by Philip Thayer, duly seconded by Rick Stoklosa, to approve the report.* The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Old Business

Trail Maintenance Projects

Philip Thayer reported that he has mapped trail behind the Outlet Mall Trail. Lee pointed out that there was no mention in the 1991 Conservation easement regarding prohibiting vehicles. In the second Conservation easement behind the outlet mall, allowing hunting is at the discretion of the land owner/Grantor.

The Chair reported an update on the Dustin Farm Trail. Greg Harned performed the trail maintenance work as a Community project. He cleared brush and branches and made bridge replacements. The wooded trails were cleared and marked with four color coated plexiglass trail markers and the entrance ways were brush-hogged. The Red Fox Rd entrance was brush-hogged beneath the power line right-of-way. The Chair wrote a recommendation letter to Mike Myers, Co-ordinator for the National Honor Society at Winnacunnet High School. After he read the letter written, *a motion was made by Philip Thayer, duly seconded by Lee Brooks, to forward the recommendation letter as written to Mr. Myers.* The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Lee Brooks reported an update on the Conservation land trails behind the Sagamore Golf Course. He communicated with Debra Gourd at Southeast NH Land Trust regarding hunting. Richard Luff, who sold the land to the town, spoke with Lee regarding his wishes not to allow hunting, which is part of the easement. It was then clarified that hunting is not permitted and signs were posted.

The Chair reported an update on the Corbett Conservation parcel. A note was received by Mrs. Robie, requesting that in compliance with the Conservation Easement on her land, access must be provided to her land. It was suggested and discussed that access could be from the Corbett land, since it abuts the Robie parcel. Philip Thayer will contact Mrs. Robie to make arrangements to identify the location where access can be made. Follow up needs to be done to make the alternate access trail from Walnut Ave. and parking needs to be addressed. "No Hunting" signs have not been put up. After some discussion, *a motion was made by Philip Thayer, duly seconded by Lee Brooks, to lay out the trail system to make access from the Corbett property to the Robie property to comply with the Robie easement requirement.*

Trail Use Communications: Newsletter, Brochure, Website

Lisa Wilson reported that she is still working on an outline for information on the trail use brochure and would like to include photographs with the access points. She will include a

minimum 8 ½ x 11 map and asked if the Town Website can handle this type or amount of data. Philip Thayer offered to research this to address Lisa's question.

The Chair reported that the newsletter is due on December 19 and he will highlight the Commission's water quality testing of the Little River. He will also include a "thank you" to Greg Harned on his project.

Town Forest Signs

The Chair reported that additional work is ongoing for the Town Forest signs.

Pending Invoices due

A pending annual invoice from the NH Association of Conservation Commission was reviewed. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by John Peterson, duly seconded by Philip Thayer, to pay if the invoice is due for 2012.*** The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

An easement development invoice for Rockingham County Conservation District for \$857.50 for the Corbett property was also reviewed. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by John Peterson, duly seconded by Lee Brooks, to withdraw funds from the Capital Reserve #8 to pay the balance of \$857.50 invoice for the Rockingham County Conservation District.*** The motion carried.

The RCCD Church Project invoice for monitoring had no amount due.

Seavey Farm Conservation Easement Review

The Chair received a call from Stanley Knowles and Barbara Kierstead regarding activity including noise and bright lights in the neighborhood. The Chair asked Michelle Peckham to review the easement and determine whether any provision of the easement was being violated. The easement allows for forestry and agriculture on reserved property. In subsequent correspondence, Michele confirmed that there was no violation of the conservation easement. and that the commercial activity on the reserved parcel issue is a zoning board matter.

New Business

RSA 91A Right to Know Act: open discussion of Portsmouth City Council on use of legal council in a "non-meeting" The Chair presented a summary on what the RSA allows for the use of counsel for legal advice in closed meetings. It was pointed out that such meetings can only be held to address business at hand of the public body.

Little River: North Hampton Beach Contamination Correspondence and Update

The final draft report for the bacterial contamination testing project is complete. The DES/Consultant summary stated that that in wet weather conditions, results are uniformly high from the headwaters of the river to the ocean. The numbers were more favorable in drier weather. The river seems to be contaminated along its entire length, including some tributaries. Test results appeared to be somewhat higher in the proximity of known septic system failure locations. It was recommended by the scientists to test storm drains and conduct testing on animal bacteria verses human bacteria. They also recommended submitting an application for a DES Coastal Program grant. Benchmark testing should be continued in locations where the test results were highest.. The Chair will email a copy of the report to Commission members.

NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists Application Consideration

Chair reported that free lectures are available to Commission members for a \$20 annual fee. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by Lisa Wilson, to pay this annual fee for members to take make use of.*** The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ZBA Correspondance

Case 2011:10 Lot 6-148 116 Mill Rd. Application for wetlands setback variance for a deck/stairway approximately 4 X 11 feet, within the 100 ft setback and approximately 60 feet from Mill Pond. The decking should have openings in order for water to drain. After some discussion,

a motion was made by Lee Brooks, duly seconded by John Peterson, for the Commission to conclude that the proposed deck presents a de minimus impact on Mill Pond, noting that the deck would be added to a previously existing structure and absence of the deck is a potential safety hazard. The motion carried with a recusal from Rick Stoklosa.

Planning Board Correspondence

None

Other Correspondence and Other Administrative

None

There being no other business to discuss, *a motion was made by John Peterson, duly seconded by Lee Brooks, to adjourn the meeting.* The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Moore
Recording Secretary