

**Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Public Session
December 9, 2009**

Conservation Commission Members Present: Pat Elwell, Bill McCarthy, Donna Jensen, Brad Jones, Dan McAuliffe, Tim Copeland, Allison Knab

Meeting Called to order @ 7:05 PM

CC Meeting Minutes:

Public Meeting Minutes for October 14th

Donna Jensen moved to accept minutes with correction changing “guest ion” to “question”; Dan McAuliffe second – Motion passed unanimously

Public Meeting Minutes for November 11th

Dan McAuliffe moved to accept minutes as written; Allison Knab second – Motion passed unanimously

CC Membership:

Eddie Barker has accepted an appointment to become a member of CC in the open alternate position and attended CC meeting

Proposal to Change Name of Town Forest:

Proposal to change name of town forest to “Gordon Barker Town Forest”; will need to reference name in warrant article that established town forest.

Brad Jones moved to recommend that warrant article is placed on 2010 agenda to change name; Dan McAuliffe second – Motion passed unanimously

Pat Elwell to send memorandum to Paul Deschaine

Land Conservation Fund:

Fund includes monies generated from fees associated with land taken out of current use (Land Use Change Tax) and used by CC but limited to supporting costs associated with purchase of property;

CC discussion regarding request that selectman approve change of language that would allow CC to use funds for land maintenance uses; CC generated list of possible uses of monies not currently allowed

Trail Development

Mill Pond Dredging

Town Forest Projects (i.e. wood chips on trails, thinning)

Small Research Type Grants (i.e. local ecology, endangered species, etc.)

Voter Education (i.e. water resource issues such as nitrogen point sources)

Establishment of Community Farming Plots on Conserved Land

CC also discussed rationale that could be presented to selectman to explain why CC would feel useful to have use of funds that includes:

1) Most people in town likely not aware of restrictions on funds and may already assume that CC uses for proposed purposes;

2) CC could use monies to be proper stewards of land acquired with taxpayer money; and

3) Allowing CC broader use of fund will reduce or eliminate the need for CC to approach town to supply funding for well thought out projects that would result in increase in tax rate

Stratham Master Plan:

Donna Jensen has not yet received revisions from Lincoln Daley

Ad Hoc Report:

Communicated by Caroline Robinson

Skip McDonald has passed away and it is not clear if family is interested in moving forward with easement; will revisit after 1st of the year

Proposal for installation of solar panels at Fire Station almost complete; Contractor can now install panels that would produce 80 KW for the same price as the previous quote for installation of panels that would produce 40 KW from last year.

9:35 PM

Dan McAuliffe moved to adjourn meeting, Edie Barker second – motion passed unanimously; Meeting adjourned

Next regular meeting scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, December 23rd at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill McCarthy

Secretary