

**Stratham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 12, 2010**

Members present: Pat Elwell, Tim Copeland, Bob Keating, Edie Barker, Donna Jensen, Bill McCarthy, Brad Jones, Jamie Marsh, and Allison Knab.

Also in attendance: Paul Deschaine, David and Jeanette Daoust

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Daoust Property Pond: David and Jeanette Daoust of 4 Juniper Drive provided a new design for their proposed pond. Final design of the pond does not encroach on the existing wetland. The pond will be constructed in the property's conservation easement. Pat Elwell said that she would write a letter stating that it would be acceptable to bring power to the edge of the pond so that power will be available should the pond need aerating to inhibit algal bloom formation. However, no lights will be allowed beside the pond in the conservation easement. The letter will be attached to the property easement for reference. Tim Copeland moved to accept the final design of the pond with the given provisions, which was seconded by Bob Keating. The motion approved unanimously.

George Gowen Salt Hay Marsh lots: Paul Deschaine stated that he was approached by George Gowen regarding Mr. Gowen's two salt hay marsh lots located on the Squamscott River northeast of Chapman's Landing. Mr. Gowen would like to donate the property to the Town for conservation. The annual taxes on the lots were less than \$100 annually. Allison Knap made a motion to accept the proposed donation, and Edie Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Meeting minutes from March 24, April 14, and April 28 were reviewed. Three errors were identified: The name of Tracey Degan of RCCD was misspelled in the April 14th minutes; the date of the Stratham Forest site walk was stated incorrectly in the March 24th meeting; the site walk occurred on Saturday March 27th.

Residential and Agricultural Zoning: The topic of differentiating zoning for residential and agricultural purposes was discussed at a recent Stratham Planning Board meeting and described in the Exeter Newsletter. Pat corresponded with Becky Mitchell about the topic. They expressed their disapproval of the idea with Planning Board Chair Janet Johnson by email.

Timberland Volunteer Initiatives: Pat met for a third time with Timberland representatives at the Stratham Hill Park and Town Forrest. June 14 is no longer the date for the volunteer project execution. The date has been moved to July 29th, 2010—the week after the Stratham Fair.

Farm List for the Stratham Town Website: Edie provided Pat with a list of farms that would like to be listed on the Town website for public reference. Edie received verbal approval of the list posting from six Town farm owners.

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Compost Bin/Rain Barrel Sales: Pat provided Paul with the cash and checks that she had received for sale of bins and barrels this spring. She reminded Paul that \$60 of the money should be deposited in the Conservation Fund because the CC's display model was sold. The remaining \$103 should be deposited in the Town's General Fund for reimbursement for the items' purchase.

Scamman Farm Driveway Access: Tim Copeland provided Pat with a copy of a letter to accompany a State Driveway Access Permit for the Scamman farm property. It is anticipated that the easement property may need Route 108 access in the future. A permit for a drive will avoid potential "land locking" of the proposed easement property.

New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program: Pat received a draft letter from the NHRMPP. The NHRMPP would like the CC to provide a letter stating its support for the addition of the Squamscott River into the NHRMPP. Bill McCarthy moved to write such a letter. Edie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned on 8:25 pm.

Submitted by,

Donna Jensen
Conservation Commission Secretary