

**Stratham Conservation Commission
Public Session Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2010**

Members Present: Pat Elwell, Bill McCarthy, Brad Jones, Dan McAuliffe, Tim Copeland, Allison Knab, Edie Barker, and Bob Keating. Also present: Paul Deschaine, Town Administrator

Meeting Called to order @ 7:05 PM

CC Meeting Minutes: Public Meeting Minutes for December 9th: Allison Knab moved to accept minutes as written; Edie Barker seconded the motion passed unanimously. Public Meeting Minutes for December 23rd: Pat Elwell moved to accept minutes as written; Bob Keating seconded the motion passed unanimously.

CC Membership: Edie Barker has accepted an appointment to become a member of CC in the open alternate position and attended CC meeting.

McDonald Farm: Mike McDonald is the executor of the estate and has indicated that the family would like to move forward with an appraisal (Thanks to Caroline Robinson who continued to communicate with the family); the appraiser would be Peter Knight (Stanhope Group) who indicated that he would be able to get to it quickly.

Scamman Farm: Southeast Land Trust still working on easement language; Southeast Land Trust sent invoice for \$23,028.31 to cover survey and other associated costs. Bill McCarthy moved to approve payment of the invoice; Edie Barker second – Motion passed unanimously. There will be additional future costs of ~\$35K for Program Management and Stewardship fund for monitoring; it is not clear who will cover these costs since nothing has been signed: Pat will follow up with Brian Hart. A possible scenario presented by the Scamman's would be for the Town to front the money for their expenses, the value of which would then be deducted from the monies paid to the Scamman's at closing. CC would like a memo of understanding or agreement if this option were adopted.

Reimbursement: CC received a \$4,000 reimbursement from the Coastal Watershed Land Protection Transaction Grant Program; Edie Barker prepared the grant proposal.

NH Association of Conservation Commissions: Received invoice of \$292 for yearly dues. Dan McAuliffe moved to approve payment of the invoice; Allison Knab seconded the motion passed unanimously.

Land Conservation Fund: Pat Elwell read e-mail from Donna Jensen to CC reciting her opinion that use of money should be restricted to projects that meet stringent conservation criteria. Pat Elwell raised the question that it is likely that CC will not be able to reach a total consensus before the deadline for submission of a warrant article for town meeting and inquired if it still made sense to continue; general consensus was that total agreement may never be realistic and that CC should continue with warrant article; CC discussed terms that should appear in warrant

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article. The final draft of the proposed warrant article: "To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to use the Land Conservation Fund to purchase, acquire, maintain, improve, and protect natural resources within the Town of Stratham pursuant to RSA 36-A."

At 8:30 PM, Allison Knab moved to adjourn meeting, Bill McCarthy seconded the motion passed unanimously.

Next regular meeting scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, January 27th at the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill McCarthy
Secretary