

**Stratham Conservation Commission  
Public Session Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2010**

**Members Present:** Pat Elwell, Brad Jones, Dan McAuliffe, Tim Copeland, Edie Barker, and Bob Keating. Also present: Paul Deschaine

Meeting Called to order @ 7:05 PM

*Theresa Walker from the Rockingham Planning Commission* came before the Commission to discuss available grant funding and potential projects. RPC has some funds available for a technical assistance grant. Pat had provided Theresa with a list of educational items the CC hoped to address in the upcoming year including:

- Water conservation
- Septic System Education
- Animals and reptiles found in Stratham for website
- Conservation easement education (the process)
- Lawn care and nutrient cycling
- Carbon footprint of local produce versus other produce types (abroad, CA, etc)
- No idling campaign

The CC discussed adding topic like water quality protection, salt reduction, invasive species, recycling. Also of concern would be to get people to use the website as a resource and get some activities geared toward the younger generation.

Theresa explained that the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Program has funds available for educational efforts and she offered to draft a grant request from the CC to PREP for funds to print and mail a newspaper that would talk about a lot, if not all, the topics listed above. She has already spoken to Dave Kellam at PREP, who is the staff person that would work with the CC to develop and edit the articles and photos, and he was excited to work with the CC on this project. These funds would probably become available in November.

As far as the Technical Assistance Grant, Theresa suggested that she could work with us to develop a natural resources inventory as well as developing the newsletters. Theresa offered to work with a CC subcommittee, but since she would probably only take ½ hour per meeting, we will proceed with this as a whole committee.

*Town Forest Trail Maintenance with Timberland* was completed on Thursday July 29, 2010. Timberland provided about 25 folks who worked to pop rocks from the trails, spread mulch, and create water bars to help slow the erosion on one of the trails. Both Dan Crow from the Park Association and Kim Wood, the Park Ranger, were instrumental in getting this work accomplished. Dan provided expertise and tools to put in water bars and secure them with rebar, while Kim had all materials ready to go ahead of time and was available with her loader to move materials in as needed. Tim moved that the Pat write a letter to the Town commending Kim for

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the work she did so it can be included in her personnel file. Brad seconded the motion that then passed unanimously.

*Next steps with Timberland* – Since Timberland was very pleased to do community service work on a local project, the CC discussed what other projects might be appropriate to as for assistance. There is a lot of purple loosestrife along the roadway (Route 33) that is gradually creeping into the park. Also, the Park Association had another hill within the Park that is eroding and could use water bars. Pat will talk with Dan Crow about these potential projects.

*Next meeting* – Pat and several other members will not available for the regularly scheduled meeting on August. Edie moved and Tim seconded cancelling that meeting. Passed unanimously and Paul will post a notice.

**Next regular meeting scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at the Municipal Center.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Elwell, Chair