

Washington Conservation Commission

Minutes – February 17, 2010

Assembly time: 7:00 PM.

Present: Carol Andrews, Nan Schwartz, Jed Schwartz, Arin Mills and Rich Cook

1.0 Approval of Minutes: Minutes from January, Rich made a motion to approve, Arin seconded, all voted in favor.

2.0 Old Business:

2.1 Permits Committee – We sent a comment letter on the Kimball permit to DES. We would like to rethink our commenting procedure. We should put perspective on our comments and go to the wetlands rules and make them site specific and cite the Wildlife action Plan and Conservation Plans. Nan will make a list of wetlands rules we can call on for points to make. We will also look at our permits committee parameters and maybe tweak them if needed. We should reach out to the BOA and do some wetlands education and help advise them on more on wetlands variances.

There was a minimum impact wetlands permit for Delorey out in LAE, TM 14-200, at 38 Garfield Road. It was for a retaining wall on the shore of Ashuelot. we will go out and take a look at it.

Also a Standard dredge and fill for Otto Svitok, TM 14-365, on Stowell Road, in LAE. We will go take a look at this one too, if we can't see what we need to because of snow cover we will write a letter to DES stating this.

2.2 Energy Committee – Johanna wasn't in attendance but Carol reported that they did get their energy grant application in by the deadline, however they didn't have an electronic copy. We send our congratulations to them, this was a major undertaking done with very short time constraint. They put in for a large grant to retrofit town buildings for energy efficiency, the town will know on March 10th whether they were chosen to receive the grant money. Johanna mentioned to Nan that Lindley would like to continue as an alternate member to the CC. Carol said she had talked to Al K. about doing a display for town meeting on energy facts and how to cut costs. Arin told us that the Library has two kilowatt meters that anyone can check out to check their homes for energy use. Carol suggested that this would be a good "Did you know?" for the Selectmen's minutes.

2.4 Town Meeting - The brochure is going to the printer and should be ready in

time for Town Meeting. Carol said that there are 2 articles we need to be ready to address. On the Town Forest land article Carol wants to bring up permanently protecting the town forest lots. The other warrant article is to sell the small lots (<10 acre) that the town has taken for taxes, we have advised the Selectmen to continue their moratorium on selling these. We felt that the Selectmen (Rich and Ken) spoke well on this at the Budget hearing when asked about it. She asked if we want to make a statement. Rich feels that LAE needs some education on stormwater issues. Carol wants to do an analysis on the retained lots for natural resources and wetlands, the lots with low ratings in these areas the town could let go. These tend to be really marginal lots with low financial value for the town if sold. We should take time to study the lots. People should understand that residential development costs the town and there are many desirable lots available for this already in town. Some of these empty lots contribute to water quality and storm water retention making abutting lots more valuable. Carol will circulate some information by email. Arin volunteered to map all the retained lots showing the tax map with a wetlands and flood plain overlay to help illustrate the issues. We will use the lot numbers mentioned in the town report (Rich will check for any newer pieces that came in this year).

Arin asked about the article that seeks unrestricted alternative energy. Nan said that we don't restrict alternative energy systems now except for height, you would need a variance to go higher than 2 1/2 stories (or 35 feet).

2.5 Land Protection Committee – The appraisals are in the works and should be done sometime in March.

3.0 What's Happening in Nature?

Carol has heard a lot of coyotes recently and they sounded close, although she said that the sound does carry over the pond. For more information on coyotes in New Hampshire go here: http://www.washingtonnh.org/WCC_Html/NewinNature.html

Jed cut a trail up in the woods and now it has become a major route for animals, evidenced by all the tracks and scat. He mentioned seeing moose tracks that showed that the moose crossed E. Washington Road, crossed the brook, entered his pasture, walked right over a 5 foot high fence and snacked on his blueberry bushes, then wandered in the back yard before going off into the woods. The tracks told the whole story.

Rich has seen a moose in the wetlands across the street from his house. It could be the same moose.

Arin wants to think about setting a date for the spring vernal pool outing. She

will contact Mrs. Lull about having a presentation for the kids at school to help prepare them for the outing. Carol thinks we could apply for some Jenkins Fund money to do some educational materials or outreach.

4.0 New Business: None

5.0 Correspondence:

- Stivok, Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit copy
- Delorey Minimum Impact Expedited wetland application copy
- Letter from Mr. Kimball to Kirsten Pulkkinen at DES
- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission draft of an implementation plan for the 2006 Ashuelot River Corridor Management Plan
- Litter-Free New Hampshire and Sponsor a Highway Program invitation
- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Newsletter
- The Source DES Drinking Water Source Protection Program Newsletter
- Lakeside newsletter of the NH Lakes Association

6.0 Adjourned at 9:30 PM, our next scheduled meeting is March 17th at 7 PM in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Schwartz
Secretary