

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM, at the town office. Present were Rob Wofchuck, Chair, and Members Emily Schmalzer, Doug Cowie and Jody Kaufman. Voting privileges were accorded unanimously to Victor Schmalzer and Reid Bunker, Alternates. Approval of last week's minutes was moved by Reid, seconded by Doug and unanimously approved.

Rob brought us up to date on the Open Space efforts toward inviting landowners to take advantage of the Wetland Reserve Program.

Easement monitoring:

We have finished walking the easements that the town is responsible for monitoring. The reports for a few of these are still not filed, but those responsible are aware and responding. Rob has made a list of the agencies that will be expecting copies of the reports on the various easements.

Reid brought up the question of what exactly is meant by an "executory interest." He looked into the answer: it is the responsibility of an agency overseeing the primary easement holder. Some of our easements have such an agency, some not. Our reporting forms need to be corrected, sometimes, to allow clear indication of this.

The 2010 monitoring efforts could start anytime now. We all signed up to take responsibility for the various parcels. Rob will send us a list of the assignments.

Outreach and Events:

The NH Audubon Society will be conducting a bird walk at the Brentwood Mitigation Site on Pine Road May 22.

A Cleanup program for the Exeter River is still in the formulation phase. Earth Day is Thursday April 22; that Saturday might be appropriate. Should we focus on the three places where fish stocking is done: i.e., below the three Brentwood bridges, Philips, Haigh and Crawley Falls; or maybe people would be interested in doing part of it via canoe. The Fourth of July has the advantage of being tied to the parade, and also the river is apt to be low then, but the poison ivy would be a real drawback then. Can we interest local groups to provide food?

There is a new group which has been established by the Legislature to promote the health of our watershed: The Southeast Watershed Alliance. The next meeting will be at the Brentwood Recreation Center on Wednesday February 17 at 6:30. Doug and Reid both offered to attend it for us.

Open Space Chapter for the Master Plan:

Rob worked with the Planning Board to use grant monies from the Rockingham Planning Commission for extending the Master Plan to develop an Open Space chapter. Victor has agreed to be the Committee's liaison with our town planner Glen Greenwood in this project. Vic pointed out that the natural resources inventory project and the future land use chapter in the Master Plan will be valuable in this.

We reviewed this year's budget.

The meeting was adjourned per Reid's motion and Emily's second, all in favor, at 8:25. The next scheduled meeting will be March 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Schmalzer