
BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION Meeting of

July 22, 2009

Members In attendance: Jody Kaufman, Doug Cowie, Heather Gilbert, Emily Schmalzer, Heather Dudley-Tatman, and Rob Wofchuck, chair

Alternates in attendance: Victor Schmalzer, Reed Bunker

Also, David Menter, Selectmen's Representative

1. Convened the meeting at 7:04PM.
2. Guest: Sue Hoey is present to describe grants available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - a. Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)
 - i. Must meet one of 3 criteria to be eligible
 - Minimum of 50% prime state or locally important farmland
 - Listed on national registry of historical places
 - Focus of state or other funded program (e.g. LCHIP), not more than 66% forested
 - ii. Application is made by entity (e.g. conservation commission, selectmen, SELT)
 - iii. Applicant responsible for 50% of purchase price (cannot use other federal money), the funding for the 50% must be in place at the time of application
 - iv. Workbooks must be completed as part of the application. One is related to applicant second is related to parcel
 - v. Agreement is with the applicant. Agreement lasts for 3 years. During that time additional parcels can be added under the existing applicants agreement (e.g. less paperwork for additional grant applications)
 - vi. State receives approximately \$2.6 million annually for these grants
 - b. Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
 - i. Three types of grants
 - 30 year easements on tribal land
 - 10 year restoration agreement
 - a. 75% cost paid by grant (considered income for tax purposes)
 - b. 25% cost paid by land holder
 - Permanent Easements
 - a. Grant pays for 100% of costs associated with easement (e.g. survey, environmental, tile search, etc.)
 - b. 50% wetlands their calculations include 300 foot riparian buffer
 - c. Requires a restoration component (as simple as invasive species or erosion control)
 - d. Will cover riparian land connected to other protected riparian land
 - e. Application is by land owner
 - f. There is no negotiation of deed language
 - ii. State receives approximately \$2 million per quarter for these grants

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- c. Update on current Grant applications for Brentwood properties. There are four properties with applications for the WRP. Backlog of ~60 applications due to changes in funding and regulations. They have just completed a ranking round and have determined which of the applicants will be funded at this point. Letters should be going out to property owners within the next few weeks.
3. V Schmalzer will follow up with one property owner who he thinks might now qualify under the revisions to these programs. Wofchuck to find soils map required to make the FRPP determinations.
4. Wofchuck has received plan showing requested lot line adjustment for Dunham property. There is a conservation easement on this property so the Planning Board has requested the commissions to review and comment. The commission reviewed the plan. The commission has no issues associated with the presented lot line adjustment.
5. V Schmalzer reminded the commission that several people including Bruce Stevens and Charlie and Joan Pratt were members of the open space committee and we commission should remember to include them on future activities
6. At 8:30 PM, Gilbert moved to adjourn, Dudley-Tatman seconded and the motion carried.