

## BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION Meeting of

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September 9, 2009

The meeting was opened at 7 PM in the town hall by Chairman Rob Wofchuck. Also present were Jody Kaufman, Heather Gilbert, Doug Cowie, Reid Bunker, Victor Schmalzer and Emily Schmalzer.

Voting rights were unanimously accorded to Victor and Reid. The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved, with the exception of Reid, who was not present.

Theresa Walker of ERLAC and Sally Soule of the DES came to talk to us about the Exeter River geomorphic study. The middle segment of the study, which includes most of Brentwood and Fremont, should be starting very shortly, probably tomorrow. The last steps in the financing arrangement have been approved; this was greatly facilitated by the town's providing matching funds. We were told that our segment of the river was the last to be examined, because it seems to be less damaged than the downstream part in Exeter and the Fordway Brook portion upstream of us. Sue expects the field work and first analysis to be complete by the end of October.

One of the most important results of the study will be to identify "fluvial erosion hazard" areas; i.e., the areas that are at risk for being retaken by the river for its channel. This will allow planning boards to advise on development in at-risk areas, and perhaps consider zoning ordinances to that effect. The observations at stream crossings may help to develop improved guidelines for building bridges and culverts. Better in-stream flow regulation (determining the allowable amount of water removal for whatever use) is potentially another valuable product of this study. A formal presentation will be held so that everyone can hear the findings and the recommendations in the spring, as was done last spring for the other parts of the river.

Sue and Theresa told us that the need for in-stream flow regulation has led to including the Squamscott River (the Exeter below the great dam in downtown Exeter, where the river turns salt and tidal) in the Rivers Management Protection Program.

Theresa Walker told us about the "teach a child to fish" program which will take place on October 24 just below Pickpocket dam. About 500-800 trout will be put into the river two days before from the state hatchery, thanks to the generous donation of Betsy Sawyer and her husband. Members of the community are welcome to come on that day (October 22) to help schlep the fish from the truck to the water. The program is open to children from 10 to 15. Only about 10 children are accepted, first come first served. Each child has an adult coach.

Patrick Sekamp will do his ERLAC sponsored vernal pool walk in the town forest behind Swasey school on May 1, 2010. He starts that program with a 45 minute lecture and slideshow.

Open space committee: We have learned that RSA 91-A-3 11(d) allows us to have a section of the meeting which is non-public, to allow discussion of acquisition of real property, as does the city of Rochester. We will follow that course, so that we don't need to have a separate non-public committee.

WRP projects for this round are nearing the completion of the negotiations. The deadline was pushed back to September 18. The committee agreed to that Rob might send a letter to the Planning Board supporting a variance on frontage for the Gallant property, to facilitate its protection exclusive of one house lot and an access road under the WRP program

We will continue to work toward future WRP applications.

Rob requested by e-mail agreement to write a letter supporting the Lamprey River project. We all agreed, and he has written the letter.

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We have purchased a Garmin eTrek Legend HCx GPS recorder for our use in doing easement monitoring. It will be kept in the office. Rob has input some maps already.

We are all reminded of our easement monitoring commitments. We need to get them done asap, so that if we can't finish them we can ask for help from SELT before the end of the year.

We adjourned by unanimously making a motion to adjourn, seconding it, and voting yes. At 9 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Schmalzer