

TOWN OF BRENTWOOD, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES, DECEMBER 10, 2014

In attendance: Robert Wofchuck, Chair; Jody Kaufman, Heather Gilbert, Doug Cowie, Jeff Donald, members; Reid Bunker and Randall Davis, alternates. Also in attendance was Mark Glowacky.

Chair Wofchuck called the meeting to order at 7 PM at the town office.

Motion made by Rob (seconded by Doug) and unanimously approved to give voting rights to Reid and Randall.

Doug moved (seconded by Reid) to approve the minutes from November 12, 2014 meeting. Minutes were approved by all but Doug who abstained.

Outreach

Rob passed around the Soak up the Rain flyer that the Great Bay Stewards have adapted from the Soak up the Rain materials. The flyer will remain as is with minor changes: 1) to reflect that it is specifically for Brentwood (versus the Great Bay), 2) to change “your land, your water, your solution” to “Help our river, Save our bay”, 3) replace the Great Bay logo with Brentwood’s and 4) reflect a new contact person (Heather Gilbert at heathersvw@hotmail.com) for public inquiries and questions. There was discussion as to how to distribute the information to the town in a way that engages people and encourages action (i.e. put the flyers in the newsletter, put a link to the brochure on the town’s website, put on a bulletin boards in the town office, school and library). Jeff volunteered to work on updating the BCC’s page on the town’s website, including information on Soak up the Rain project (Rob to find out if logos are downloadable and any copyright issues). Randall volunteered (Heather G offered to help) to work with the library and town office to set up Soak up the Rain displays. It is the belief that having the displays up by spring would be the best time to set them up...prior to people starting to fertilize their lawns, etc.

Discussion took place about potentially having a small informative article submitted to the monthly newsletter related to Soak up the Rain and how you can help (i.e. volunteering to put a rain barrel in at your house, fertilizers and their effects). Further outreach discussion included involving the Brentwood Garden Club and DES to host public events with rain barrel installation demos at individual residences. It was noted that it will be important to be able to track results from this project...to show people the impact that soaking up the rain can have on the surrounding environment (before-after numbers at each installation).

Open Space

The BCC would like to re-evaluate any open spaces that are still available for conservation. The Open Space spreadsheet needs to be updated with a list of conserved properties (acreage, easement holder) and any properties not conserved prioritized. The current spreadsheet ends in 2006.

An updated spreadsheet could be used to calculate the value of the land conserved vs town costs....to prove why funding needs to be provided to help conservation projects (a good return on the investment).

2015 Events

Spring Clean-up (to be headed up by Heather D-T and Emily) date to be determined. Brochures should be handed out then.

Potential for an invasive workshop (i.e. on purple loosestrife), which Doug volunteered to take the lead on. This could be a possible opportunity to work with ERLAC and/or Trout Unlimited.

Old Business

The CC approved \$250 towards plants at the library rain garden. Since the plants are not going in until next year, Joyce from the library found two wholesalers in NH and the CC purchased a \$125 gift certificate to the library from each one. The two companies were Found Well Farm and Van Berkum Nursery. Rob paid for these personally. Motion for reimbursement to Rob for \$250 moved by Jody, seconded by Doug and approved by all (Rob abstained).

RFP for Land Management Plans - Rob has received a few calls from consultants asking for more information. Rob spoke with Margaret in the Brentwood Rec Department and she is excited that we're looking into evaluating the land around the Rec Center as she gets many inquiries about the trails in that area. We will try to have trail maps produced as part of the project.

New Business

There is an invoice in the amount of \$303 for the NH Association of Conservation Commission 2015 dues. Doug moved and Reid seconded a motion to pay it. Motion approved by all.

3 bills to the Southeast Land Trust:

- 1) \$3,519.65 for annual monitoring of conservation easements
- 2) \$2,059.04 for consulting on open space issues in 2014
- 3) \$2,590.00 for project to organize and complete easement files. This expense was approved to come out of the Conservation Fund at the August meeting.

Doug moved and Reid seconded a motion to pay the above three bills. Motion approved by all.

Reminder: the February meeting is going to be rescheduled.

Doug moved and Heather seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:32.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Gilbert, member.