

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 11, 2006**

Present: Tom Duston; Chairman, Chet Greenwood; Selectmen's Representative, Steve Fisher, Lynne Borofsky, Kathy Thatcher, Bill Tyler, Jeff Newcomer (8:45 PM) and Amy LaFontaine; Secretary.

**1). Visitors** – Shaun Hathaway was present from Lost Cloud Forest Management. He has been contracted by Fred Wright to harvest timber on property that contains the Daniels Mountain Trail. Fred is required to notify the Conservation Commission at least 60 days prior to any forestry activities on property containing an easement. Shaun asked what the Commission's concerns would be with the proposed harvest. Shaun stated that they would mark out the easement and the 50-foot corridor with Timber Harvest ribbons. Shaun stated that the Softwood pulp was the most valuable in the timber market right now. He expects to leave the forest with a much better appearance than it has presently.

Shaun presented a forest inventory and a proposed harvest. The landing area will be near the boundary of the Wright and Hauert property on Merrifield Road. Tom asked that Lost Cloud abide by the Best Management Practices published by the State of New Hampshire. Shaun stated that a time line would be difficult as the ground has not frozen yet this winter, if it is a very dry spring he may be able to begin this summer. Shaun requested one or two access points to cross the trail. Lynne stated that she was concerned that the skidder trail would leave better access for ATV use. Shaun stated that they could put up big logs or boulders to block the trail once the harvest is complete. Lynne asked for a couple of hemlocks to build puncheon walkways and bridges on the trail. Shaun will contact Tom once he has marked the easement.

2). Steve moved to approve the November 30, 2005 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Bill and passed unanimously by the Commission.

**3). Outstanding Permits, Complaints, etc –**

A). NHDOT – 2005-02855 has received conditional approval for Main St., West Chesterfield.

B). Lynn Thomas – Don Scott from Clough, Harbor and Associates called to be on the agenda for tonight's meeting. However, Tom called him back and let him know that the Commission would not be signing off on the application, the Commission has sent comments on to DES. This property is between Quarles and the yacht club. Ms. Quarles let the Commission know that there was a 10-year restriction on building on the Thomas property.

C). Linda Fijol – 2004-00558 Restoration Plan due by January 13<sup>th</sup>.

D). Jeffrey Rodden – 2005-02345 Civil Suit pending from neighbor.

E). Mill Pond – Marshall Patmos, the retiring county forester, from the Westmoreland Conservation Commission has contacted the Commission regarding a complaint about large releases of water washing out Westmoreland roads and driveways.

Tom stated that he had observed what appeared to be clogs removed from the culverts possibly from beavers. Tom will e-mail a response to Marshall.

**4). Report from the Chair –**

A). Tom has been approached by Ziggy Richter to purchase an easement on property in the California Brook Forest. It is a 10-acre lot in the Residential Zone on Atherton Hill Road surrounded by other building lots. Tom Allen has said that he doesn't want any people walking on his property. Knapp has stated that they will donate an easement to the Monadnock Conservancy. The Richter property is a corridor to the Allen property, who doesn't want anyone on his property. Jeff stated that he did not want the Commission to pick up little patchwork pieces of land. Kathy stated that she would be concerned that we would spend money on this only to have a larger more valuable piece of property become available. The consensus of the Commission was that we needed to be more selective.

B). Tom needs a decision notice stating that the Commission has agreed to donate \$40,000 for the Houghton easement.

C). Neil is going to have the Madame Sheri sign remade. The Commission will put it up.

D). Tom had expected a member of the Friends of Pisgah to be present this evening to ask for funding for an intern from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to be at Pisgah Park this summer.

E). Marjorie Swope from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions is retiring. Debbie Hinman is taking over. Debbie has asked for guidance as to what the Commission needs. Kathy likes the e-mail legislation reports. The Commission would like to see the newsletters, decisions and annual meeting continue. The Commission would also like to be notified about state grants and lobbying. Lynne would like to know about recommendations for trails around the state. Kathy would like to know about other Conservation efforts; i.e., easements, funding, projects, etc.

**5). Report from the Selectmen's Representative –** Chet stated that the Town was dedicating the annual report to volunteers. The Commission would like the Trail Stewards mentioned in the dedication. Chet stated that if any member of the Commission would like to run for Selectmen, he would donate the dollar filing fee.

Chet reported that the Zoning Board had ruled against cluster development at Spofford Hall. They recommended that this would need to be pursued by Planned Development District (PDD) as there is no precedent for such a thing at the lake. The Shoreland Protected Zone is the only zoning in Chesterfield that Cluster Developments are not allowed.

**6). Other –**

A). During the discussion of the minutes, Tom stated that as an alternative to a capital reserve fund or a bond the Commission could use the Conservation Fund to purchase an option to hold land until the next Town Meeting. Chet stated that the Fund might not be an option as it has to be used to buy something. Taxpayer money may not be usable for speculation.

B). Kathy stated that Madame Sheri's was out of maps. Lynne stated that a box of 500 maps is costing between \$50 and \$70. Budget ran over 18% this year.

C). Bill contacted Dibernardo & Associates to survey the O'Neil Forest. The Commission believes it is 80-acres, Dibernardo claim it is 120. They are submitting an estimate to survey the entire parcel for \$11,000. Tom thought the estimate was a little high. Kathy suggested going to Antioch to have a surveying major practice. The Commission agreed not to spend the money for the survey at this time.

D). Kathy will be coming to the Selectmen's meeting tomorrow night with Jim O'Neil to discuss the land purchase fund. Chet stated that they would talk about an expendable trust, which would require an appointed trustee. The Bond would be 1 vote but the Town would be paying interest on a bond note every year. Kathy stated that it would be nice if the Commission weren't responsible for this fund. Tom stated that if the Fund was needed in the middle of the year, a special Town Meeting could be held. Most of the recent expenditures from the Conservation Fund have not been for land purchase, but for protection.

E). Kathy will ask Ken Wright for a management proposal for Friedsam Forest.

F). Kathy and Tom will go to the Planning Board late spring/early fall to propose a Buffer Ordinance.

G). Lynne is applying for a Trail Flood Damage Repair Grant from the NH Recreational Trails Program. The paperwork is due Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. There are 3 areas; Sargent Trail, Madame Sheri Parking Lot and Friedsam Forest. Lynne needs everything to send out by the 18<sup>th</sup>. She needs a letter from the Forest Society, Selectmen for landowner permission, the school as users of Friedsam, and the Butterworths. The proposal would replace the bridge at Madame Sheri's, which is 20 X 4, the ladder bridge in Friedsam and erosion on the Sargent trail.

7). The meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM. The next meeting will be February 22<sup>nd</sup>,

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine  
Secretary

Approved:

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Tom Duston  
Chairman

Date:\_\_\_\_\_