

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 22, 2006**

Present: Tom Duston; Chairman, Steve Fisher, Bill Tyler, Lynne Borofsky, Kathy Thatcher, Jeff Newcomer, Amy LaFontaine; Secretary.

**1). Open Space Project** – Ken Wright was present with a list of current conditions, recommendations and a proposal for Friedsam Forest. Ken suggested a weed wrench to remove the invasive Buckthorn that is present. The soil is best suited for White Pine. Sumac, Blackberry Brambles, Hobblebush and Meadowsweet are good shrubs that are present. Buckthorn & Barberry are invasives. Cherry trees are the only soft wood Ken found in the forest. There are several different tree habitats in the forest; towards the road there is a lot of Poplar and Black Locust, mostly Hemlocks upslope, Hardwoods and White Pine are in another area.

Ken suggested creating a Shrub habitat. He recommends cutting about a fifth of an acre per year to create open space. There aren't any winter food sources except the Sumac, which is more of an emergency. Ken stated that \$100 would purchase a lot of shrubs. He recommended creating softer edges, so that predators don't have a straight line of vision by planting strawberries and honeysuckle and cutting Blackberries every other year. Ken advised the Commission to hire an intern for this project, because it would save money and time. Ken is available to the Commission for 40 hours for free. After that he charges \$20 per hour and \$35 per hour with a Chainsaw. An intern would be approximately \$10 per hour.

Ken's plan is to remove invasives this spring, identify shrubs to keep and decide on shrubs to plant. This summer he is proposing to cut trees in 1/5 area to be cleared, look for grants and funding for 2007 + and begin planting shrubs. In Early Fall, he suggests monitoring plantings and removing invasives again. Tom stated that the Commission has used interns before and stated that the Commission would be available for some volunteer work. He stated that he is in favor of an intern and would like to establish a weekly Saturday work session for the Commission and Trail Stewards. Ken stated that the budget for Year 1 would be much higher than subsequent years. The commission has their own brush hog, which would cut down on costs. The Commission could get honeysuckle from Tom's house and apple tree graftings from the forest.

2). Steve moved to approve the February 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kathy and passed unanimously by the Commission.

**3). New Permits** – Camp Spofford – Permit by Notification to replace sand on the beach. This is next door to Ware's Grove, which replaced the sand on the beach last year. The Commission advised the Town to perch the beach last year. The Commission does not need to sign off on PBN.

**4). Outstanding Pemits, Complaints, Etc.** –

A). Lynn Thomas – 2005-02349 on Spofford Lake. Carolyn Quarles, an abutter, contacted Kathy because more than 50% of the trees have been cut and others have been come

down in the wind storm. There are also apparently some pending Civil issues. Kathy advised her to file a formal complaint. The house is out of the jurisdictional wetland. Kathy Tom, Steve and Amy will meet at the Spofford Post Office on 5:00 Friday to look at the site. Jeff is recused as he is a member of the Yacht Club, which also abuts the property.

B). Kalich – Colony Road. The pond has been dredged again. Dawn, from DES, is looking for photographs from last summer. Lynne stated that when the water level falls the ruts look fresh.

C). Davidson – Water overflowed and ran into neighbor’s stream. Chet has asked them to stabilize it.

D). Fijol – An Abutter has complained to DES that the driveway is not permitted on Forestview Drive. DES has a restoration plan on file. Dawn from DES was not aware that the residential driveway permit had also been rejected by the Town. There is documentation in the file from Jeff Blecharzyk that DES was aware that the residential driveway was also denied.

**5). Report from the Chairman –**

A). Stillman property on North Shore Road (Map 6 Lot A16) – The Commission has been approached by Moe Mozier to purchase an easement on 36 acres. This property does not have access to the lake. The Commission did not feel that this was relative to the Conservation projects in Town. Tom will write a letter asking permission to walk the land and suggest that the owner donate an easement.

B). Tom is proposing the Commission and Trail Stewards meet every Saturday starting April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM to work on projects. There is a tree down on Daniels Mountain.

C). Anne Muffin has purchased the property on Gulf Road and Mountain Road with the steep slopes that Kathy looked at a couple of years ago.

D). Tom stated that he has received letter from DES stating that the Trails Grant Application was complete.

**6). Other –**

A). Lynne stated that the Commission owes the Hunts \$208 for completing the bridge in Friedsam Forest. Tom requested the funds come out of contracted services in the budget.

B). Steve will make a wish list of tools.

C). Lynne stated that she would be willing to be Ken’s contact person starting June 24<sup>th</sup>. She is hoping to supervise the grant projects this summer as well. Kathy will call Ken to meet with the Commission some Saturday morning to begin work in Friedsam. Tom moved to accept the proposal as written from Ken Wright and to commit to an expenditure of up to \$1,000 in 2006. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously by the Commission.

7). The meeting adjourned at 9:25. The next meeting will be April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine  
Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Duston, Chairman

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