

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 25, 2007**

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

1). Visitors – David Moon the Executive Director from the Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory was present to introduce themselves and the programs that they provide. They are housed at Keene State and they help train the public in environmental research. Tonight was a planned salamander migration that is probably cancelled because it has stopped raining. They have trained volunteers to help salamanders cross high traffic roads. The Observatory is offering several Continuing Education classes this summer. Forest Inventory, Bird Inventory and GPS & Computer Mapping. David stated that his purpose in being here is to be sure that the Observatory is meeting the needs of the community. There will be a community forum on environmental information on May 8th from 8 AM to 12 PM to see if these programs are beneficial. Tom stated that he would attend. Kathy stated that she would try to attend.

2). Jeff moved to approve the minutes from March 28th as amended. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously. Elaine has submitted a letter requesting information for the capital improvements committee.

3). Mail – Tom requested that an agenda item be added after visitors and before the minutes.

A). Tom stated that the Commission received honorable mention in the Monadnock Conservancy Newsletter.

B). No child left inside park events.

C). GIS from SWRPC for Steve. Checklist of Conservation project selection criteria.

4). Permits, Complaints, etc –

A). Pete Mitchell - 2007-00680 Winchester Road after the fact culvert. DES has informed Kathy that an after the fact permit is required to be a Standard Dredge & Fill. This will be a longer waiting period. Kathy suggested that the State Conservation Commission Group send out mailings to anyone that would be in a position to be hired and need a wetlands permit for work being done. Tom suggested researching the home occupations in Chesterfield and notify companies in Town that may do work that requires a wetlands permit. Rancourt Construction installed Pete's culvert. Kathy also asked DES about the responsibility of new property owners when property is sold with wetlands violations. The response was that they are responsible for restitution. Kathy stated that she would like to see the Standard Dredge & Fill expedited in order to get the headers installed. The majority of the Commission is in favor of a letter stating that the Commission does not object to the permit.

B). Joe & Alyssa Fortier – 2006-02522 Old Ferry Road Bank Stabilization. Response to request for more information.

C). Margaret Bailey – 2007-00612 16 Silverdale Road standard dredge & fill to repair a stone wall on Spofford Lake. Administratively Incomplete. DES is looking for overhead view and cross-section of the property.

D). Hutchins-Stone – 2006-02510 Route 63 Complaint. Failure to respond.

E). Saba – Riverside Hotel has violations within the shoreland protection zone. This is the first the Commission has heard about it. They have been before the Planning Board and the Zoning Board. It is in violation of the height ordinance.

F). Hoopis – Cottage on the lake has been replaced with a huge house. In the Shoreland Protected Zone you cannot increase the footprint.

G). New Construction on the Lake next to Dompier and Mary Mann. House is the size of the lot. The Blasting knocked neighbors septic system apart.

5). Grants & Events – Lynne is going to hike in Friedsam to verify that the projects for Lew Shelley are still the most important projects. Tom and Lynne went to the Rec Center for the first trails exchange day. Tom met Don, an Antioch Student looking for a graduate project. Tom suggested he come up with a plan to connect the hiking trail from West Hill to Keene. The Commission should attend the Antioch Fair because there are students typically looking for the type of projects that the Commission has. Lynne reminded everyone to keep track of time spent in Friedsam.

6). Spofford Lake Report – Bill stated that the sand from Camp Spofford has eroded into the lake again. Permit #2006-00616 was conditionally approved provided that there would be no requests to replace sand for 6 years. The Commission sent a letter with the application dated March 24, 2006 requesting a perched beach.

7). Website – Jeff is hopeful that he will be able to demonstrate how to update the bulletin board at the next meeting.

8). Trail Stewards & Tools – Steve needs an updated list of Trail Stewards. The Commission will need to retrieve the trailer soon. Steve will go to Staples to get the digital camera. He priced one out for \$169. Steve found a good price on a site compass at Benmeadows.com. He will get a purchase order for 2 @51.80 each.

9). Trail Development & Land Projects –

A). The Logger working on the Wright property will be notifying Tom once he has flagged the area that he wants to cross the easement. Tom will be away for two weeks starting on May 13th. He will let him know that he should contact Kathy if he hasn't heard from him before then.

B). Tom would like to schedule an event to clear the trail. The suggested date is May 19th at 10 AM. Meet at Pisgah at the Kilburn Trail Head. The Commission will meet on May 5th to recheck the flagging.

C). Tom would like to propose Bartlett Road be reclassified as a Class A Trail at the next Town Meeting. The state tried to give California Road to the Town and the Town refused it.

D). Ziggy Richter would like to convert some of his land to Conservation Easements. The Commission would like to table discussion. The Commission has committed up to \$5,000 on the Doyle property.

10). Adjournment - The Commission agreed upon the schedule of Chairpersons for the remainder of the year as follows:

May 23rd Lynne
July 11th Steve
August 22nd Jeff
September 26th Kathy
October 24th Bill
November 28th Lynne

Tom will be the first Chair in 2008. Amy will e-mail requests for agenda items to the chairperson about 10 days prior to the meeting. Jeff moved to adjourn at 9:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved:

Tom Duston
Chairman

Date:_____