

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2007**

Present: Steve Fisher, Chairman; Tom Duston, Lynne Borofsky, Jon McKeon, Selectmen's Representative; Bill Tyler and Amy LaFontaine, Secretary

1). Tom moved to approve the September 26th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Bill and passed unanimously by the Commission.

2). A motion was made to amend the public notice. A motion was made by the Chesterfield Conservation Commission to hold a public hearing regarding the withdrawal of \$50,000 from the Conservation Fund to assist in the purchase of a Conservation Easement on the Yankee Arrowhead Property in the California Brook Forest Project (Phase II) subject to the approval of the Selectboard. When a P&S is signed \$50,000 will be transferred to the Monadnock Conservancy. The money will be returned if the purchase does not occur within 1 year from the date that the P&S is signed. The Monadnock Conservancy will hold the Conservation Easement. The Executory Interest will be held by the State of NH. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3). Outstanding, Permits, Complaints etc.-

A). Mike Callahan www.beaversolutions.com met with Kathy and Amy at 8 AM Friday morning. Lynne presented the letter where he requested \$125 to meet with us. The beavers need to come back in order to use Mike's solutions. He will draw up a quote once Kathy has talked to the Erickson's regarding which solution they would like to use. There needs to be more water in the field side of Route 63 in order to install a fence or a pipe. The fence keeps the beavers from damming close to the culvert and the pipe keeps water moving through the culvert if they dam near the culvert. The beavers were trapped and killed. Mike did not think the beavers would come back any time soon because they were taking down large trees which are a dead end food source. Amy stated that she wanted to do whatever was necessary to prevent killing any more beavers. If they can't live in Friedsam Forest where else can they live.

B). Kevin Beal – Administratively Complete

C). Winn Johnson-84 South Shore Road received a letter of Deficiency last week. Dawn Buker from DES was here last week.

D). Shaun Hathaway, Lost Cloud Forest Management, stated that he had marked 3 or 4 trail crossings. Tom took pictures of 4, went back a few days later and 5 crossings had been cut. Tom wanted to be clear that the Commission has given him a waiver from the legal requirement of the easement. Lynne wants the flagging and string removed once the timber harvest is complete.

E). DES tracking report – The Commission asked Amy to go back another year or two. She will move the permits approved to a 2nd page that will not be mailed every month. Going forward applications that have correspondence since the last meeting will be highlighted in gray. Lynn Thomas will be out there forever. Going back another year she will also pick up Carrie Scott, for example. Creating the report took about 2 ½ hours. Amy is hopeful that this will take 10 to 15 minutes to update monthly. Tom stated that an Antioch student looking for a project could research the outstanding permits.

4). Grants, Events –

A). The laminated map on the tree in Madame Sherri has been removed. Andy Faust from the Forest Society is too busy until next summer to install the kiosk.

B). The Commission is at the ½ point for the Grant. The Commission has volunteered 2,478 hours in manual labor at \$7.39 per hour. 1,700 hours were promised. Lew Shelley is set to begin work in Friedsam. Jake Borofsky is now chain saw certified and he will assist Lew replacing the ladder bridge. The trails are very dry right now. The final report for the grant is due in September. Lynne is hopeful that there will be some water in the spring so the Commission can determine other areas that need work. Jake will go remove the trees that are down on the Anne Stokes Loop tomorrow.

C). Lynne has applied for a NE Utilities public service grant to encourage the beavers to return to the pond that was suggested in the Forest Management Plan for Friedsam by Cynthia Nichols et al. at the last meeting. If the hemlock and white pine are removed it encourages the hardwoods to grow. The Beaver solution was going to cost \$800 to \$1200. Lynne proposed \$600 and the Commission to match \$600. She is also requesting \$300 for a forester to remove trees in a wedge cut. She is proposing to reduce the hemlock and encourage the hardwoods to grow.

D). The Commission is still looking for State approval to open Bear Mountain Trail. There will not be a fall event. This is not a Chesterfield Trail so the Commission should provide guidance to the Hinsdale Commission and the Friends of Pisgah to name it.

5). Spofford Lake Report- Spofford Lake is being lowered for the winter.

6). Tools and Trail Stewards – Steve reported that he had walked Daniels Mountain and Ancient Oaks. There are 3 trees that should be taken down on Ancient Oaks. Lynne will send Jake out.

7). Trail Development and Land Projects –

A). Conference in Denver- Tom presented Take-home Points from Working Forest Conservation Easements and Habitat Objectives. The Commission has agreed to allow Kathy to seek contributions from other Towns for an NRI in Pisgah.

B). Tom moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously by the Commission. Tom moved to withdraw \$50,000 from the Conservation Fund to assist in the purchase of a Conservation Easement on the Yankee Arrowhead Property in the California Brook Forest Project (Phase II) subject to the approval of the Selectboard. When a Purchase & Sale Agreement is signed \$50,000 will be transferred to the Monadnock Conservancy. The money will be returned if the purchase does not occur within 1 year from the date that the P&S is signed. The Monadnock Conservancy will hold the Conservation Easement. The Executory Interest will be held by the State of NH. The motion was seconded by Lynne and passed unanimously by the Commission.

8). Report from Selectmen-

A). John Allard has withdrawn his application for cluster development from the Planning Board. The project was on Poocham Road.

B). Elaine has resigned as Chairman from CIP committee. Jon has taken over as chair.

C). Jon stated that the Selectmen are working on taking over several roads from previous developments. The Planning Board does not have to allow the Town to take over the road in a development.

9). Other- Anyone who wants to go the annual meeting on November 3rd in Concord will sign up on their own, pay their own way and be reimbursed by the Commission.

10). The next meeting will be November 28th. Lynne will be Chair. The following meeting will be January 9th. Tom will be Chair. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved:

Steve Fisher
Chairman

Date: _____