

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2008**

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

1). Visitors –

A). Concerned Friends of Atherton Hill Road (CFAR)- There is 111 acres on Atherton Hill Road owned by Brown Limited Partnership from New Jersey. They have been before the Planning Board about a cluster development. This land is between Chesterfield Heights and California Brook Natural Area. There is concern about the water supply within the neighborhood. Judith Speng is interested in purchasing Conservation Land. There are 3 abutters also interested in contributing to a purchase. The Family has tentatively offered the land for \$875,000. The State may be concerned about impact to Route 9 from Wellington Road. CFAR is seeking help from the CCC.

Louise Rath also suggested having the property rezoned at the next Town Meeting from Residential to Rural Agricultural. Tom presented an appraisal from John Newcombe for \$390,000 dated December 6th 2006. There are 6 comparables. The assessment is \$213,000. The CFAR has a website at friendsofahh.blogspot.com.

B). Jeff Littleton – Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). Jeff L. was present to assign projects to Commission members and identify important dates. Jeff L. proposed shifting the timeline 1 month. He will compile data beginning in September & October. The GIS mapping interpretation will be done in September. Jeff L. will identify property owners that should have site assessments and provide a template letter. Permission from property owners will be required. The Commission will be responsible for sending the letter. Jeff L. will obtain maps from SWRPC. Jeff L. suggesting a public forum sometime in November. The Commission will be responsible for identifying avenues to advertise. Jeff L. is also looking for a list of all Class VI Roads.

Chesterfield has been selected as 1 of 6 Towns in Monadnock Region for the Farm & Community Connection Program put on by the Cheshire County Conservation District. Jeff L is a chair on the inventory committee. He will need a list of working farms in the Community to compare to agricultural soils. Jeff L is also seeking a list of current use property. Tom suggested Jeff L visit the Selectman's Office for this information. Tom suggested Rick Van de Poll's NRI on California Brook, which is at the Monadnock Conservancy. Jeff L stated that he would be back for the next meeting on September 24th. He asked the Commission to identify a contact person for him.

The forums are the Responsibility of the Commission to find a location, advertise, and host. He suggested a Community Education Workshop with the UNH Cooperative Extension on GPS mapping sometime in April. There will also be another Forum on Critical Wildlife Habitats and potentially a hike or 2 to some critical areas. The contract will be with Conservation Commission. The cost will come out of the Conservation Fund. Lynne stated that she was particularly interested in Friedsam Forest as an educational spot that could be utilized by the School.

2). Minutes – Lynne moved to approve June 25th minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously. Kathy moved to approve July 8th minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Jeff.

3). New Permits – Elizabeth Anvari – 23 Bittersweet Lane West Chesterfield 2008-01639. Minimum Impact Expedited has been found administratively incomplete because of the NHB search. DES also required the dock to be shortened.

4). Permits, Complaints, etc –

A). Harry & Audrey Ericson – 2008-00750 Minimum Impact Expedited Route 63. Kathy is working with Mike Callahan from Beaver Solutions to answer questions asked by DES by October 17th. The State will probably need to sign off on the application because it is within the ROW for Route 63.

B). Bruce Potter – 2008-00288 Non-site Specific approved with Conditions. 65 Pine Crest Drive.

C). Gregory Lorsbach & Heidi Bushway – 2007-00879 Standard Dredge & Fill. Request for more info 6/25.

D). Chris & Sally Norton – 342 Atherton Hill Road deFacto Standard Dredge & Fill. Administratively Incomplete and Response.

E). Tom Dreyer – 2008-01538 Shoreland Application 28 Silverdale Road 8/8.

F). David Belanger – 2006-01240 Restoration Plan Approval 903 Gulf Road 8/12.

G). Jackie Hartwell, B&K Aqua Club, Inc. 2008-00855 Standard Dredge & Fill. Request for more information.

5). Grants & Events – The Friedsam Grant ends August 30th. Lew Shelley completed the 2 bridges before the Monadnock Conservancy meeting on the 23rd. Lynne passed around pictures. There was \$2,629.44 left to spend in the Grant. Both bridges cost \$583. Lynne had \$725 for 3 bog bridges, 1 longer bridge for \$350 and Steps up to the Parking Lot on Route 63 for \$550. There is \$446.44 left on the Grant. The volunteer time required was \$549 for this project.

The Taste of the Greenway hike will be November 1st beginning at 10 AM at the Kilburn Trail Head on Route 63. The preliminary hike was on July 6th. Kilburn Pond to Plain Road was 60 minutes. Plain Road to Moon Ledge was 30 minutes. Moon Ledge to Indian Pond was 75 minutes. Indian Pond to Mine Ledge was 45 minutes. Mine Ledge to Mountain Road was 1 hour and 45 minutes and crossing the bridge to Brattleboro was 5 minutes. The hike will end at the Riverview Café in Brattleboro. Lynne will be meeting with the Café next week. She is estimating about 30 people. It will be important to RSVP for the dinner prior to the event. Sam's Outfitters will supply a van back to cars. The Monadnock Conservancy and the Hinsdale Conservation Commission may be interested as co-sponsors. Conservation Budget has been spent 74%, \$1,016. Pre-paid postage envelopes will need to be purchased next year.

6). Spofford Lake Report – Tom stated that Bill went to the Mitigation Meeting for the jail. There is \$113,000 available for the mitigation. Bill was not present to give a report.

7). **Tools & Trail Stewards** – Steve stated that he purchased a new battery for the drill from Fireside for \$100.69. The invoice will come out of supplies. Tom stated that he would enjoy being responsible for the Trail Stewards. The Commission agreed to leave the trailer at the Transfer Station.

9). Trail Development and Land Projects –

A). Tom stated that the Yankee Arrowhead project is caput. Due to Tax Laws for a C Corporation the property owner will not be able to take a personal deduction. Tom suggested using some of the \$50,000 committed by the Commission for CFAR. The Commission is prepared to commit \$15,000 for transactions subject to Committee Review to protect 111 acres owned by the Brown Limited Partnership. The property is assessed for \$213,000.

B). Tom stated that he and Lynne are still working on “Friedsam East”. They will fundraise, research grants and motivate voters. Jon should be negotiating with Chickering for a proposal.

C). Tom has given Transcanada Grant plans to Lynne.

10). Other –

A). Elaine Levlocke is interested in having handicapped trails in Chesterfield. The Commission would be happy to accept grants offered to create these types of trails.

B). NRI- Kathy will be the Contact person for Jeff Littleton. Lynne has made a list of avenues to advertise. Tom will make a list of Class VI Roads. Tom suggested finding a copy of the water report by Jim O’Neil.

C). The Selectmen would like to switch meeting nights to Wednesday. They have asked the Commission if they would like to choose another night to meet. The Commission did not want to meet on a different night. They will meet in alternate locations if necessary. The next meeting will be September 24th.

11). The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved:

Date: _____

Tom Duston
Chairman