

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2008**

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

Visitors – Dave Bergeron from Brickstone Masons was present to answer questions regarding a PBN for Fran Voudrien to redo a retaining wall along the CT River. The Commission has already signed off on the application.

Minutes – Tom moved to approve October 22nd as amended. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously. Jeff moved to accept November 19th as amended. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously. The Commission asked Amy to forward a copy of the minutes to Jeff Littleton

Permits, Complaints, etc –

- A). Frances Boucher – 2003-0157 White Birch Road. Letter of Closure for LOD
- B). Norton, Chris & Sally – Administrative Order and Complaint to Town. The Nortons have written a letter to the Town telling them not to trespass. There was a statement in the April 26, 2006 minutes stating “Tom walked the property with the Monadnock Conservancy”. The statement as written in the minutes is very ambiguous. The property actually walked was the neighboring property with the Monadnock Conservancy. The stone wall that defines the borders between the 2 properties was disturbed. Mr. Norton says the wall was damaged prior to his ownership. The Nortons filed an after the fact Dredge & Fill Application. The Monadnock Conservancy does own an easement on both the Houghton and Trask properties, and thus do need to be notified for any wetland applications. There has been a site specific complaint filed for disturbance of more than 100,000 square feet. The Commission does not know who filed the complaint. The Norton’s issue is with DES. Tom has written an apology to the Nortons for the statement in the minutes and confirming the Commission and the Conservancy did not trespass. He also met with the Selectmen regarding the issue.
- C). Darren Gerber – 2007-01316 Restoration Plan Approval.
- D). Elizabeth Anvari – 2008-01639 Wetlands and Non-Site Specific approved with Conditions. Minimum Impact Expedited.
- E). Gregory Lorschach & Heidi Bushway – 2007-00879 CT Valley Environmental Services, Inc. and response from DES understanding amendment request has been withdrawn.
- F). Harry & Audrey Ericson – 2008-00750 Minimum Impact Expedited Approved with Conditions. Kathy will contact Mike in the spring to get it installed.

Grants & Events – Lynne submitted her report via e-mail. Lew Shelley has completed one of the walkways on Ancient Oaks. The steps may not be able to be completed until spring. Lynne stated that Friedsam is a mess with trees down. She is planning to attend the Land Summit on January 31st. Tom would like to get a Planning Board member and a Selectman to go. It is \$20 per person. There is limited room in the workshop. The Commission did not want to have a winter event. Tom wanted to order some tools on this years budget.

Tools – Steve stated that he still needed to order 2 loppers and hand cutters. Tom sent 2 pairs to Florian for repairs.

Trail Development and Land Projects– Tom stated that the Town and the Chickerings are far apart on price. Tom asked Tad Lacey how to determine property value. Tad suggested getting an appraiser. He suggested Jon Newcombe (who actually has appraised the property) Tom has talked to a representative at DOT who said 10 feet back from the white line there needs to be 400 feet of clear sight line in both directions for a curb cut. There is only 1 location where this might be feasible.

There was trash dumped on the Trask Easement on Old Bartlett Road. Jim Scranton may have cleaned it up. He said he would call if he needed help.

California Brook Project – Yankee Arrowhead property fell through. The Gray property may be available again. LChip will allow the Monadnock Conservancy to spend the Yankee Arrowhead money on the Gray property. The Horatio Colony Trust will come up with some money for this also. The Gray property is partially in Chesterfield. Tom moved a preliminary commitment of \$25,000 from the Fund to the Gray property. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously.

Brown Property – The Commission can open a trust fund to accept donations for the Brown Property. The donations can be given back if the project falls through. Steve moved to approve the opening of a trust fund to accept donations for the acquisition of the Brown property. The motion was seconded by Amy and passed unanimously. Tom moved a preliminary commitment of \$10,000 from the Fund to the Brown property. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously.

Other - Tom has ordered the signs. Kathy needs to contact Cynthia about working in Friedsam. Tom will write up a proposal about the work that the Commission wants her to do. Tom would like a long-term management plan for the clear-cut area and a plan for reconstituting the beaver dam in the northeast corner. Tom may have some volunteers for the NRI. The balance in the fund is \$165,896.51 at the end of 2007. Amy will renew her alternate position with the Commission. The Commission would like to have another alternate. The Commission would like Bill to remain an alternate. Jeff will talk to Dave Wood about being the Commission representative on the Lake. Kathy will be submitting some reimbursements. Jeff Littleton has requested \$300 for the Public Forum. This is part of the contract for the NRI.

Adjournment - The next meeting will be January 28th. Lynne will be the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved:

Kathy Thatcher, Chairman

Date: _____