

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY FORUM  
NOVEMBER 19, 2008**

Present: Lynne Borofsky, Tom Duston, Chairman; Jeff Newcomer, Chairman; Steve Fisher, Bill Tyler (arrived at 6:55 PM), and Amy LaFontaine, Secretary.

1). The Commission determined that the next meeting would be December 17<sup>th</sup>. Tom stated that it was not necessary to hold a public hearing to change Bartlett Road from a Class VI Road to a Class A Trail. The project is premature this year.

**2). Community Forum** – There were 30-35 Residents of the Town present. Tom gave an overview of protected areas in Chesterfield. Lynne introduced Jeff Littleton, head of Moosewood Ecological, LLC, and Amanda Costello, Cheshire County Conservation District Manager. They are conducting the National Resource Inventory (NRI) for the Town. Jeff gave a brief overview of the Goals and Objectives of the NRI:

Conduct a detailed natural resource investigation

- Evaluate and Compare Wetlands
- Refine Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) and Critical Wildlife Habitats
- Map high quality agricultural lands
- Map high quality forest lands
- Map Conservation priorities

Community Outreach and Investigation

- Host a Community Forum
- Conduct a Series of Workshops
- Present Results @ Public Information Sessions

For the First Exercise Jeff presented a list of species he would be looking for and Observation Forms. He asked those present to complete an observation form and label it on the map. For the second exercise Jeff split the group into 3 sections and asked what are the strengths of Chesterfield's Natural Resources and what are some of the Challenges for Chesterfield's Natural Resources? The groups then chose the top 3 from each category. The top 3 Strengths were willingness to support Conservation Efforts, Unfragmented Lands and Spofford Lake. The top Challenges were Drinking Water, Loss of Prime Farmland, Protecting Hills and Ridges, and Development along Route 9. There was a brief discussion as to whether Cluster Development was a strength or a challenge.

Jeff stated that the next steps were to develop a list of volunteers, develop a workshop series, analyze existing info to prioritize sites for assessment and how to get involved? Visit the Conservation Commission's website: [chesterfielddoutdoors.com](http://chesterfielddoutdoors.com). There will be a link set up to topo maps. Dutch Walsh suggested getting the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders involved. The Commission asked Jeff to compile a suggested reading list to be compiled at the Library for a Conservation Section. The Forum adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine  
Secretary

Approved:

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Jeff Newcomer  
Chairman