

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2009**

Present: Kathy Thatcher, Chairman; Tom Duston, Lynne Borofsky, David Wood, Steve Fisher and Amy LaFontaine, Secretary

1). Mail – A Thank you note from the Colony Trust for the Colony Pond clean-up was received.

2). Steve moved to approve the October 8th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Tom and passed unanimously.

3). New Permits – NE Power Company Transmission Line Reconducting . More info has been requested from Fish & Game and the Heritage Bureau and the CT River Local Advisory Committee.

4). Permits, Complaints –

A). Town of Chesterfield – 2009-01847 Approved with Conditions 479 Old Chesterfield Road

B). Julie Champagne – 2009-02495 Approved with Conditions 102 Old Ferry Road.

C). Town of Chesterfield – 2009-02349 Approved with Conditions Ware’s Grove.

5). Events –

A). The Kiosk has been installed at the Madame Sherri forest. Tom assisted installing the kiosk. Carrie Deegin has replaced Andy Faust at the Forest Society. A map will be put in next spring. The Commission would like to put a kiosk in Friedsam. Lynne will ask about the builder of the kiosks.

B). The Commission would like to change the map. Combine it with Rebecca’s final map and our map. Madame Sherri on one side and Friedsam on the other.

C). The Commission is considering a Muffin Mountain event on January 30th.

6). Land Development & Projects –

A). Tom moved to expend \$5,000 from the Conservation Fund to the Mondnock Conservancy for the survey costs, appraisal, legal fees, recording, staff time and stewardship for the Fletcher/Doyle conservation easements in Chesterfield. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously. This motion supersedes the motion approved on October 22, 2008.

B). Tom is going to post dog expectations at the local trail heads. The State RSA’s state that dogs must be under control.

C). There are volunteers available to bushwack and put a new trail from North Wantastiquet to Madame Sherri.

D). There will be a sign posted on Old Prouty Road stating no Motorized Vehicle access for Colony Pond. This is prior to gates & bars.

7). Public Presentation of the NRI. \$13,640 has been expended for the NRI. Only \$16,280 was approved for expenditure. About 25 members of the public were present. Jeffry Littleton of Moosewood Ecological, LLC has been hired. The NRI began in November 2008 with a Community Forum. One of the Goals set at that time was for Community Outreach & Education. There was a GPS workshop and a vernal pool workshop. The Goal of the Inventory is for future planning. Some of the observation Ranking Wetlands based on Ecological Integrity, Wildlife Habitat, Water Quality, Flood Control, Groundwater Use and Erosion Control. Some of the strengths listed at the Community Outreach is the open farmlands. Some of the challenges identified at the Forum were Route 9 and Hill & Ridge Protection. This is a final community outreach to present preliminary findings. Jeff stated that he had most recently observed the effect of the Fire on Muffin Mountain on Mount Wantastiquet. The Commission also hosted a series of hikes.

Jeff obtained property owner permission to evaluate wetlands larger than 2 acres and property owners that owned large parcels of property. His research assistant was Erin Quigley. Fifty-five wetlands were evaluated on 11 values: Ecological Integrity, Wildlife Habitat, Fish Habitat, Educational Potential, Aesthetic Quality, Flood Control Potential, Groundwater Use, Sediment Control, Nutrient Attenuation, Historical Site Potential, and Noteworthiness. Jeff looked at the National Wetlands Inventory and hydric Soils map as well as flood plain, forest maps and productive soils and compared it to actual field studies. Some things are incorrect at the National Level. Other items can be updated. Goal 2 was to establish a wildlife action plan. The forests in Chesterfield are actually very varied. Moose and Bobcat are present.

Another goal of the NRI was to conduct detailed natural resource investigations. Jeff evaluated and compared wetlands, refined Wildlife Action Plan for critical wildlife habitats, mapped high quality & unique forest lands, mapped high quality agricultural soils and mapped conservation priorities. There was a group present with concerns about the purpose of the NRI. The purpose is for Town Planning & Educational Purposes. The people present wanted a chance to review the draft findings before the final publication. There was some concern that the NRI would be used to limit property owners use of land. Jeff stated that he would provide management practices to anyone requesting his guidance. He was willing to work with anyone that wanted to talk with him. Jeff can not report the location of endangered plants without the permission of the property owners. The forum opened up to individual questions and concerns.

8). The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved:

Kathy Thatcher
Chairman

Date: _____