

Meredith Conservation Commission

Meredith, NH 03253

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting.....April 21, 2005

Meeting:

Meeting called to order by Chairman Sherman at 7:00 PM.

Members Attending:

Robert LeCount, John Sherman, Barbara Smyth, Donald MacFarlane, Ralph Pisapia, Peter Miller, Jacquie Colburn. Alternate members: Ron Kiesel, Pauli Novicki.

Minutes:

By motion of Smyth, seconded by MacFarlane and voted affirmatively the minutes of the April 7 meeting were approved.

Business:

The treasure urged all those members who attended the seminar "Saving Special Places" to bring their expenses, fee and mileage, to him so that they may be paid.

We have now been invoiced for our annual dues to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (\$311.00). As this is included in our annual budget the Treasurer was authorized to pay this invoice.

The Commission is now scheduled to meet with the CIP Committee on May 25. The Commission will be represented by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The agenda for our next meeting will include discussion on the amount of funds that the Commission will request.

Committee Reports:

Sign Committee

The committee presented the sign proposed for the Piscopo property. The sign will be 2:x 3" and will contain the wording requested by the Piscopo family. It was suggested that the words "Managed by Conservation Commission" be added at the bottom. With this addition by motion of Pisapia, seconded by LeCount and voted affirmatively the Committee was authorized to order the sign. Price from Omni Signs \$100.00. The Open Space Committee will be responsible for the location and installation of the sign. The marking of town forests and easement lands is still to be resolved.

Open Space Committee

Chairman Sherman again solicited comments from each member as to their position on placing an easement on the Hamlin property. It appeared that all members favor placing an easement on Hamlin. Further discussion indicated that members would support placing an easement only on Hamlin at this time, leaving Eames out at this time. Several members felt the further study of the Eames property would be required before a proper easement document could be written. The question of logging in Hamlin was discussed. It appeared that the prohibition of any logging in the northern section (old growth forest) would be acceptable. Logging in other sections of Hamlin might be allowed if very tight controls were imposed. (see Miller's Comments included in the April 7 minutes)

The question was raised whether we wanted to recommend granting the easement to the Northeast Wilderness Trust as they are only three years old and have little or no tract record in New Hampshire. Some members express the option that this should have little impact. It appeared however, that costs may be a factor. If we grant an easement on Hamlin only will we lose the Sweetwater grant? In addition Northeast has indicated that they will require no up-front monies for monitoring costs if we grant them the easement on both Hamlin and Eames. Will this be true if granted the easement on Hamlin only. Other potential grantees might require up-front costs. All these are unknown at the present but must be resolved before any final decision, We have received several copies of easements that have been placed by other towns.

These and the Northeast proposal will be reviewed. The best portions of each will be incorporated in any easement finally approved by the Commission. By motion of Pisapia, seconded by LeCount and voted affirmatively Chairman Sherman and Miller were authorized to write an easement document that the Commission could approve. Once approved it would be presented to several potential grantees. Each proposal would be evaluated. The one which in the opinion of the Commission is in the best interest of the Town of Meredith will then be shown to the Selectmen for their further review and comments.

It was hoped that this new easement document could be ready for our next meeting.

At 8:21 PM by motion of MacFarlane, seconded by Smyth and voted affirmatively (all members polled) the Commission went into executive session to discuss potential easement and land acquisitions.

At 9:29 PM the Commission came out of executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Next meeting scheduled May 5, 2005 at the Police Station.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. LeCount, Secretary