

Meredith Conservation Commission

Meredith, NH 03253

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Workshop.....August 17, 2005

Meeting:

Workshop opened by Chairman John Sherman at 7:00 PM.

Members Attending:

Barbara Smyth, John Sherman, Donald MacFarlane, Robert LeCount. Ralph Pisapia. Alternate Members: Pauli Novicki, Paul DeFrari, Ron Kiesel.

Business:

Chairman Sherman introduced Stephen G. Walker, Stewardship Specialist, Conservation Land Stewardship Program, Office of Energy and Planning for the State of New Hampshire. Mr. Walker had requested the opportunity to speak to the Commission. He wanted to explain to the Commission what their program does for the State and the help that they can provide to the Commissions. They have the responsibility of monitoring those easements that their program has had partial participation in the acquisition. In the case of Meredith they are responsible for overseeing the monitoring of the Moulton Farm and Bushnell easements. The Meredith Conservation is responsible for monitoring these two easements on a yearly basis and filing a report to the State. This has been done. He was given a copy of the Commission's monitoring report that is completed after each inspection. This report is done for each of the easements under Commission control and are filed yearly with the easement documents. He complimented the Commission for this procedure. He was shown the property boundary markers that are now being placed on all easements in Meredith. He agreed that this is an important step to insure that easement restrictions are maintained and was pleased that the program is now being implemented. Mr. Walker also recommended that the Commission purchase a GPS unit. It would be of great benefit in locating boundaries of easements. Not too great a cost.

Next the Commission had a presentation from Marge and David Thorpe and Mr. Deetz. They represented the Lake Wicwas Association. They had requested time to make a presentation to the Commission. They are vitally concerned about the activity by the Henmor people in the prime wetlands at the southern end of Lake Wicwas. They believe that an illegal channel is being dredged at that location. They had two aerial photographs of the area. The first taken in 1993 showed no channel while the photograph taken within the last several days did show a distinct new channel. They also showed a photo of mud and other debris piled on the side of this new channel. They asked that the Commission contact the DES and express its concern that the wetlands are being negatively impacted.

The Commission advised the Thorps to immediately contact Darlene Forst at the DES and make her aware of these new photos. After discussion the Secretary was instructed to write to the DES and request that in light of this new material the DES revisit the site and confirm or modify their conclusions. This is one on the prime wetlands in Meredith and should receive strong protection.

No other business came before the Commission.

Next meeting scheduled September 1, 2005 at the Police Station.

Respectfully submitted.

Robert A. LeCount, Secretary