

Meredith Conservation Commission

Meredith, NH 03253

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting October 21, 2004

Meeting:

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

Members Attending:

Jacque Colburn, Peter Miller, John Sherman, Phil Mercer Barbara Smyth, Robert LeCount, Ralph Pisapia. Alternate Members: Paul DelFrari, Donald MacFarlane, Pauli Novicki, Paula Wanzer. Town Representative: Brenda Vittner

Minutes:

By motion of Sherman, seconded by Smyth and voted affirmatively the minutes of the October 7, 2004 meeting were approved as presented.

The following by-law changes are placed on the table for review. The Commission will vote on acceptance of these changes at the December 2 meeting.

Change Section 6:01 to read

“The Commission members shall elect among themselves a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.”

Remove Section 6:03 in its entirety

“The Chair shall be responsible for the administration of all budgets and funds under the jurisdiction and control of the Commission”

Add Section 6:06 Duties of the Treasurer

“The Treasurer is responsible that all invoices approved for payment are promptly presented to Town Accounting for payment, insuring that they are charged to proper budget accounts. Monthly the Treasurer will report to the Commission the status of all budget accounts. The treasurer will aid the Chairman in preparation of the yearly budget. All monies allocated for Commission use will be held in Town financial accounts.”

Business:

By motion of LeCount, seconded by Miller and voted affirmatively the following invoice was approved for payment:

Pauli Novicki \$5.98 For file folders

By motion of LeCount, seconded by Sherman and voted affirmatively the registration fees of LeCount, Pisapia, Sherman, MacFarlane, Novicki and Smyth to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions' Annual Meeting was approved. Cost: \$180.00

Treasurer Pisapia gave his first financial report. Several items now charged to the operating budget should be changed to the acquisition of Eames or Longridge. Pisapia will meet with Vittner to make these corrections. A budget for the year 2005 must be prepared for submission to the Town before November 6. Pisapia to contact all members to determine estimated expenses in areas of their control.

The Commission formally recognizes the honor given to Town Planner John Edgar by his receipt of the Nelson B. Robinson Rising Star Award. John has been of great service to the Commission especially in the area of the Natural Resource Inventory.

Chairman Phil Mercer announced his resignation from the Commission. All Commission members expressed their regret at his decision and urged him to reconsider. If Chairman mercer does not reconsider Vice-Chairman Sherman will act as Chairman until such time as the Commission elects new Chairman. The Commission should also consider a recommendation to the Selectmen for the nomination of a new member to the Board. Commission members indicated that one of the present Alternate Board Members should be elevated to full board membership.

Committee Reports:

Dredge and Fill Committee

The following application to the Zoning Board of Adjustment was reviewed since the last report:

Leander Huckins

Recommended Approval

Pease Road
Tax Map S-21, Lot# 29

Place house in wetland buffer
Move house closer to road

Natural Resource Inventory Committee

Colburn met with Edgar and Rick de Poll but the final draft of the Inventory is not yet ready.

Open Space Committee

Completed the easement monitoring of Beede, Moulton and Bushnell. An encroachment on the Moulton easement was found. A letter to the encroacher has been sent. Commission will follow up. Paint will be used to mark this boundary instead of tape. Committee (Paul DelFrari) will monitor Piscopo, Dotter and Hermit Woods Easements. It was noted that some cemeteries near or within easements need care. Brenda Vittner indicated that town personnel are working to maintain each cemetery. The Committee will view the new road being constructed at the Waldron Bay Easement at 1:00 PM October 22. A sign is needed at the Piscopo Easement. Smyth has agreed to head up this project. Peter Miller reported that he has met with John Hodsdon and reviewed the improvements planned for the farmhouse on the Longridge Easement. All appear to be of high quality and will maintain the historical character of the building. Peter Miller reported that the Eames property has now been closed. The final cost to the Town was \$541,493 which reflected the final appraisal and gift from the Eames Trust. Funds to support this purchase came from :

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|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Balance in conservation bond | \$405,087 |
| LWCF Grant | 100,000 |
| Conservation Expendable Trust | 36,406 |

The Commission next discussed the status of the Sweetwater Grant. Peter Miller will put together a package outlining the Sweetwater Grant Proposal. This will be distributed to all members for their review and comments. It will be discussed at the December 2 meeting.

Media Committee

MacFarlane is working on computer programs which could be incorporated into the Town's web page. This would highlight Commission activities.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Next Meeting scheduled November 4, 2994 Police Station

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. LeCount, Secretary