

Meredith Conservation Commission

Meredith, NH 03253

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting.....February 2, 2006

Meeting:

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

Members Attending:

John Sherman, Peter Miller, Robert LeCount, Barbara Smyth, Donald MacFarlane, Jacquie Colburn.

Alternate Members: Pauli Novicki, Paula Wanzer, Paul Delfrari.

Guests:

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Ducharme, Rick Van de Pool, Paul J. Fortier.

Minutes:

The following correction to the January 19 meeting minutes was made:

Under Space Activities remove "These signs are ready to be installed".

With this change by motion of Colburn, seconded by Smyth and voted affirmatively the minutes of the January 19 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Again in the absence of the Treasurer the Secretary reported that no new invoices for payment had been received since the last report.

General Business:

Albert and Donna Ducharme had requested to appear before the Commission to seek information and guidance as to the best means to protect open space which results from the development of their land on Roxbury Road. The original parcel is 209.8 acres. Utilizing a cluster type of development approximately 110 acres will be left in open space. The Ducharmes came before the Commission to seek advice as to the best way to preserve this 110 acres in its natural state over a long period of time, indeed forever.

The Commission indicated that in its mind the best means of protecting this parcel over a long time frame would be the placement of a conservation easement on the property. The Commission then cautioned the Ducharmes that many legal issues would have to be resolved before such an easement could be placed on the property.

Who would own the property? The Commissioners indicated that it would probably be best if there was only one owner rather than adjacent property owners each having a share.

Is the property in one continuous piece?

Would the property be open to the public?

Would there be access to the property other than through abutter's property?

Would the grantor place sufficient funds with the grantee to insure protection of the easement over long period of time?

Several members of the Commission agreed to meet with the Ducharmes on Monday, February 6 at the Commission's office (upper floor of the Town Hall Annex) 2:00 PM at which time they receive copies of existing easements for their review.

Activities Reports:

Dredge and Fill Activities

The following applications to the DES have been reviewed since the last report:

Town of Meredith	Recommended Approval
US Route 3/Greenmore Drive	Construct wooden boardwalk & wooden pedestrian bridge
Tax Map U-10, Lot# 50, 50A, 35	Across Hawkins Brook prime wetlands
Mary E. c/o Elizabeth Brennan	Recommended Approval
197 Neal Shore Road	Repair existing retaining wall
Tax Map S-18, Lot 10	
Michael B> Robinson	Recommended Approval
Bear Island	Requested 6' x 30' permanent dock , recommend
Tax Map I-6 Lot# 16a	seasonal dock. Dredge to 3"

Town of Meredith
Route 3
Tax Map S-15, Lot# 8

Recommend Approval
Construct new Police Station

The following listed Application of the Zoning Board of Appeal was reviewed:
Town of Meredith
Route 3/25, Jenness Hill Road
Tax Map S-15, Lot# 8

Recommended Approval
Construct new Police Station

Natural Resource Inventory Activity

Jacque Colburn introduced Rick Van de Poll

Rick reviewed his proposal "Rapid Wildlife Assessment of the Eames Property" Cost of this proposal \$4680.

Little discussion was given to this proposal. As later in the discussion it was decided to delay this proposal and to concentrate on his original proposal to do steps B,D,E.

- B. Field Based Survey of High Co-Occurance Areas
- D. Wildlife Habitat Analysis
- E. Prime Wetland Delineation and Mapping

The cost of this proposal is \$17,500. Chairman Sherman indicated that the Commission should go back to this original proposal which had been approved at the Jan. 5 meeting. No additional costs to include Eames surveys were to be included. These would be handled later with their unique contract. As a result of these discussions Rick Van de Poll was asked to prepare a contract giving a firm fee schedule, estimated timing and cost \$17500. As start timing is essential this contract was to be ready for signing at our February 16 meeting.

It became apparent that start of this project was critical. It was stressed that media coverage before starting would contribute greatly to the success of the project. Educating the public as to the benefits accruing to the Town and its citizens would most certainly increase support. Rick Van de Pool agreed to provide materials used in previous campaigns. Rick has done this type of project successfully in several other towns, One of the important requirements of the project is "landowner notification" This may be time consuming and entail expenses. It is estimated that almost 500 landowners will be solicited. Here again Rick has previously developed a form (used successfully in Effingham) to obtain permission to enter the owner's property. These will be modified, if necessary, to meet Meredith requirements. All persons entering property will carry the necessary medical and liability insurance. It was agreed that the names of all persons entering property will be known to the property owner prior to entry. Persons entering property will be limited to two, Rick and an assistant.

The Commission believes that throughout the program Town Planner, John Edgar, will monitor and support the activities.

It is anticipated that this project can start as soon after contract signing as possible, Rick can start on those parts not requiring "landowner permission" or snow. If, however, if these can not be completed this year they would be completed in 2007.

Open Space Activities

It was agreed that snowmobiles could use Old Stanton Road.

Chairman's Comments

Due to the lateness of the hour Comments on the Bylaws and Town Meeting will be addressed at the February 16 meeting.

By motion of LeCount, seconded by MacFarlane and voted affirmatively the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Next Meeting scheduled February 16 at the Town Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. LeCount, Secretary