

Meredith Conservation Commission

Meredith, NH 03253

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting...August 17, 2006

Meeting:

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

Members Attending:

John Sherman, Ralph Pisapia, Peter Miller, Pauli Novicki, Robert LeCount, Donald MacFarlane, Barbara Smyth.
Alternate Members: Paula Wanzer, Terry Lance, Jacquie Colburn, Paul DelFrari, Dan Hayduk.

Minutes:

The following addition/change were made to the minutes of August 3, 2006

Modify the motion made by Pisapia, voted 6 - 0, Miller abstaining to read "The Commission offers no objection to the use of a portion of the Feltham Property as a Town snow dump, located as shown in the memo of August 4 of Michael Faller, Public Works Director, addressed to John Sherman"

With this change by motion of MacFarlane, seconded by Pisapia and voted affirmatively the minutes of Aug. 3 were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Pisapia presented the following invoices for payment:

John Sherman	\$ 30.00	2 Handbooks for new Commission Members
Pauli Novicki	20.00	Book "Way out Here" for Commission Library
LW Watershed Association	100.00	Contribution to support environmental work

By motion of Pisapia, seconded by MacFarlane and voted affirmatively these invoices were approved for payment.

The fiscal 2007 budget for the Commission is being prepared. Both Chairman Sherman and Treasurer Pisapia requested that any member that desires a program that will require funds bring this to their attention so that it may be discussed and if accepted placed in the budget.

Business:

Chairman Sherman turned the discussion over to Vice-Chairman MacFarlane. The discussion revolved around the three documents handed out at the last meeting, 1. Plan of Action for the Chumung Area, 2. Dockham Action Plan and 3. Forest Stewardship Plan, Carleton Town Forest. All members had been requested to review each of these documents. Several changes in wording were suggested. No major changes were suggested. It was agreed, (no vote taken) that the "Plan" would be written incorporating the changes suggested.

Discussion then turned to the "Dockham Action Plan". As the "Forest Stewardship Plan, Carleton Town Forest", prepared for the Commission in 2000 by the then Town Forester, covers Dockham (Carleton and Dockham are the same, change in name only) this document focused the discussion. Included in this document was a tabulation of goals that the Commission had for the property at that time. This tabulation was the result of a survey sent out to each Conservation member. This tabulation is shown below:

Goals/Uses	Its importance to me			
	High	Medium	Low	None
Income		X		
Recreation		X		
Scenic Beauty	X			
Wood Products				X
Wildlife	X			

After discussion it was agreed that now in 2006 the importance of income should be low. All others remained the same. Further discussion recommended that such a survey should be issued and up-dated. MacFarlane was requested to contact Sumner Doyle, Belknap County Forester to solicit his help in formulation of an up-dated plan and securing a Forester to aid the Commission.

It was agreed the in cases where the Commission holds the easement on the property signs should read "Meredith Conservation Commission Stewardship"

Chairman Sherman brought the members up to date on the status of easements on Bear Island. There are three properties involved. In the northern section of the Island the Commission has been requested to consider taking an option on property owned by an association of abutting property owners who wish to protect the land from any future development. No decision has been made and discussions continue. The Commission has indicated that it would only accept the responsibility of an easement if the property was fully surveyed and all boundaries known, no type of encroachments exist and sufficient funds are placed in escrow to cover monitoring costs and any litigation costs incurred defending the easement. In the southern portion of the Island is property owned by The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. It appears that the Meredith Conservation Commission holds the easement on this property. The Commission has never monitored this parcel. The question now confronting the Commission is as it holds this easement how should it proceed with its monitoring responsibilities.

The third parcel is a piece of land abutting the SPNHF property owned by the Town of Meredith. No easement exists on this property. Abutters would like to see this land protected from development and have informally indicated that they would like an easement placed on the property. The Commission has taken no position or action on this property.

Members were urged to attend one of the educational seminars.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Next meeting scheduled September 7, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the Meredith Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. LeCount, Secretary.