

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting January 7th, 2010

Members present: Don MacFarlane, John Sherman, Ralph Pisapia, Peter Miller, Bob LeCount, Paula Wanzer, Mark Billings

Alternate members present: Dan Heyduk, Robert Davis

Guests:

Todd and Holly Andrews, Sno-Streakers Snowmobile Club, 16 Sunset Hill Road, Meredith

Sandy Mucci, Hillrise Lane, Meredith

Minutes of December 3rd, 2009

On motion of Sherman, seconded by Billings, the minutes of December 3rd, 2009 were approved unanimously.

Dredge and Fill Report

The following application to the Department of Environmental Services was reviewed since the last report:

Spencer Upshaw	Recommend approval.
433 Bear Island	Replace existing docking structure
Tax map I-02, Lot # 10	

LeCount presented the following statistics on applications reviewed since 2004.

Applications to DES

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Standard	23	--	27	25	15	12
Minimum	25	--	27	9	10	11
P/N	15	--	18	10	9	9
Totals	<u>63</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>32</u>

Applications to ZBA

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number	16	--	15	12	8	7
Grand Total	79	--	87	56	42	39

Treasurer's Report

Pisapia reported that the Commission's 2010 budget request has been endorsed by Town Manager Phil Warren. The matter now goes to the Selectboard for review.

Pisapia noted that the Commission has received a \$300 donation from Rick Van de Poll for Page Pond stewardship. As Page Pond has not yet been designated a town forest, this money will be placed in the Commission's Fund 5 for the time being.

Payments

By motion of Pisapia, seconded by LeCount, the following payment was approved unanimously:

\$364 NHACC Annual dues

Request for Snowmobile Trail Relocation in 186 Acre Forest

Todd Andrews of the Sno-Streakers explained that the snowmobile corridor in the 186 Acre Forest can no longer be accessed through private property near junction of North Main Street and Philbrook Ave. The Sno-Streakers would like to use the pedestrian entrance on Philbrook Avenue for access. As this access point is a fairly steep slope, discussion focused on erosion prevention. Andrews stated that the Sno-Streakers would perform slope stabilization next summer and install a gate, if requested. There was brief discussion of where to locate such a gate and who would maintain it. MacFarlane emphasized that approval of the Philbrook Avenue access should be for one year initially. Sherman noted that the power line corridor in the northern part of the 186 Acre Forest might be better access. On motion of Heyduk, seconded by Sherman and approved unanimously, the Sno-Streakers were granted permission to access their corridor via the Philbrook Avenue entrance this winter.

Page Pond

Billings noted that the timber harvest is still in progress. He observed that it is hard to tell how clean this phase of the harvest is due to snow cover. We'll know in the spring. The log landing near Quarry Road and its suitability for parking was briefly reviewed.

Dockham Town Forest

MacFarlane informed the Commission that the cut has begun and the staging area has been cleared. Miller asked if the cash from the harvest would cover all of Shaun Lagueux's costs, including the cost of the forest management plan. The answer is not known at present.

Signage

MacFarlane sent members a photo of the Leighton Wildlife Area sign, which was installed on Carleton Road before the ground froze. Comments were very positive.

Sherman Conservation Easement

Pisapia informed Commission members that the draft of the easement is ready for review by Attorney Lee Mattson. He also noted that Community Planner John Edgar has been brought into the informational loop.

Kahn Easement

The Commission has received copy of the forest management plan prepared by Shaun Lagueux.

Office Reorganization

Davis has volunteered to reorganize the Commission's files and library. The question of how long to keep dead files was briefly touched on. Davis noted that office reorganization will be a work in progress for a while.

Snake River/Spear Property

MacFarlane has forwarded John Edgar's update to Commission members. This communication will be reviewed at our next meeting on January 21st. Members may submit written comments to MacFarlane in the interim.

Belknap County Conservation District Meeting

Billings attended the December 11th meeting. He updated the Commission on the Wetlands Reserve component of the new federal farm bill. This program can be used to preserve wetlands. Applicants must be landowners. Conservation groups can assist landowners but not apply for grants themselves. Pisapia noted that wetland easements funded by this program might be time-limited, not perpetual. Billings to look into that matter.

186 Acre Forest - Naming

The public will soon vote on the name of this town forest. Voters will select from three names printed on ballots. Polling places will be the Community Center, Town Hall, and

the Library. Wanzer showed the Commission the posters she has prepared, the ballots, and a ballot box. Polls will close by February 18th. The voting process will be publicized.

Member Comments

Davis stated that there is interest in continuing the Library's reading project in the 186 Acre Forest. How to protect materials on site from the weather?

Sherman noted that we need to prepare for Town Meeting vote on the Page Pond warrant article. We are requesting that Page Pond be designated a town forest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller
Secretary