

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting January 21st, 2010

Members present: Don MacFarlane, John Sherman, Peter Miller, Paula Wanzer, Mark Billings

Alternate members present: Dan Heyduk, Robert Davis

Heyduk and Davis were appointed voting members for this meeting.

Guests:

Tim Whiting, Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee (WWAC), Duncan McNeish, Waukegan Shore Owners Association (WSOA)

Sandy Mucci, Hillrise Lane, Meredith

Minutes of January 7th, 2010

On motion of Sherman, seconded by Billings, the minutes of January 7th, 2010 were approved unanimously.

Hersey Mountain Trail Grant – Letter of Support

The New England Forestry Foundation has asked the Conservation Commission to write a letter of support for a grant to be used to construct a hiking trail on nearby Hersey Mountain. The trail was routed by the MCC's own Dan Heyduk. On motion of Billings, seconded by Davis, the Commission voted unanimously to provide the requested support letter.

Hamlin/Eames Ecological Assessment

Ecological consultant Peter Ellis has submitted two wildlife management plan proposals for the Eames and Hamlin town forests. The consensus of the Commission is to contract for the second proposal, which will include stewardship/management recommendations. The estimated cost for this work is \$8,000. We are waiting to hear from Administrative Services Director Brenda Vittner whether this project must be put out to bid due to cost.

Town Meeting - Page Pond and Forest Warrant Article

The Commission discussed the display to be set up in the lobby at Town Meeting – large maps on easels, a self-running power point, etc. The town is likely to ask the Commission to provide a list of talking points for this warrant article.

Spear Property/Snake River

MacFarlane informed the commission that Community Planner John Edgar and counsel Lee Mattson are agreeable to a conservation easement being placed on the property. Now we are waiting to hear from the Town of New Hampton on this subject.

Sherman noted that timber harvests on this narrow strip of waterfront land would be contradictory with the purpose for acquisition – water quality protection. Snake River is not protected by the Shoreline Protection Act due to the classification it falls under, thus the language of the easement is critical.

Tim Whiting and Duncan McNeish informed the Commission that the Waukegan Shore Owners Association is likely to negotiate a P & S agreement with the property owners soon. They hope a P & S will jumpstart the next phase of their fund raising, which has plateaued at \$8,000.

Backyard Sugaring Workshop

The Conservation Commission is co-sponsoring this workshop, to be offered by UNH Co-operative Extension on Feb 10th at 6:00 PM at the Meredith Community Center.

Dockham Timber Harvest Update

MacFarlane visited the site and reports that the harvest appears to be going well. The work is likely to be completed within a month. MacFarlane will schedule a meeting on site with forester Shaun Lagueux.

Sherman Easement Update

Billings has met with counsel Lee Mattson. The easement will be scheduled for an upcoming Board of Selectmen workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller
Secretary