

## **Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman MacFarlane at 7:00 PM.

Members attending: Don MacFarlane, John Sherman, Ralph Pisapia, Peter Miller, Paula Wanzer, Mark Billings

Alternate members attending: Robert LeCount, Robert Davis, Jacquie Colburn

Guest (soon to be alternate member): Sandra Mucci

### **Approval of Minutes**

Per motion of Billings, seconded by Sherman, the minutes of April 1<sup>st</sup> were unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Pisapia presented a spreadsheet of this year's expenditures to date. Nothing had been expended from the \$1,515 operating budget prior to this meeting. Pisapia will update the Commission on the status of encumbered monies, Fund 5, and our various other accounts at a future date.

The contract to have consultant Peter Ellis perform an ecological assessment of the Eames and Hamlin Town Forests has been signed. This is to be paid from encumbered funds.

By motion of Sherman, seconded by Billings, the Commission voted unanimously to reimburse Don MacFarlane \$75.00 for attending the recent "Saving Special Places" workshop.

### **Smyth Easement Trail**

Miller updated the Commission on how the trail is coming along. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, a crew of seven members and volunteers cleared the entire trail. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, we will go back on site to install wooden trail signs and bronze plaques, finish trail clearing, and move one boulder to facilitate brook crossing, time permitting.

### Saving Special Places

MacFarlane's report of this workshop evolved into a discussion of the Farm Bill's Wetland Reserve Program, which is of potential interest to the Commission because of its relevance for funding open space protection. Billings noted that for landowners to qualify for this funding, they must have owned the property for 7 years and that their income must not exceed \$1,000,000/year. He stated that the Trust for Public Land is still optimistic that Wetland Reserve funds could be secured for the protection of a property on the Commission's priority list.

### Blueberry Hill Class 6 Road

Sherman, Billings, and MacFarlane will meet with DPW chief Mike Faller soon to discuss the ongoing issue of unwanted vehicle intrusions. The berms that were installed in the road have flattened somewhat and are no longer a sufficient deterrent. Need to review options and adopt a course of action.

### NHACC

Sherman noted that NHACC will be presenting an all-day workshop for new (and old) conservation commissioners at various locations in New Hampshire. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

### Forthcoming Projects

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Smyth Easement Trail, meet at Hamlin parking lot 8:00 AM

May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – Community Forest/Rotary Bridges, meet at Jenness Hill parking area 9:00 AM.

### Page Pond Forest

Billings noted that the materials for the kiosk will cost approximately \$500. He updated the Commission regarding improvements DPW will make to Quarry Road access and parking and the gate. Per motion of Sherman, seconded by Billings, the Commission voted unanimously to reimburse DPW up to \$2500 for rock fill and gate improvement. This sum is to be paid from encumbered funds and/or the balance that remains from the Page Pond timber harvest.

### Election of Officers

Per motion of Sherman, seconded by Pisapia, the Commission unanimously approved the following slate of officers for 2010:

Chairman: Don MacFarlane  
Vice-Chairman: Mark Billings

Treasurer: Ralph Pisapia  
Secretary: Peter Miller

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller, Secretary