



Town of Weare Conservation Commission

P.O. Box 190
Weare, NH 03281
Fax: (603) 529-4554
Email: conservation@weare.nh.gov
Website: www.weare.nh.gov

Conservation Commission

Andy Fulton, Chairman
Patricia Myers, Secretary
Stephen Najjar
George Malette
Michael Dahlberg
Dennis Smith

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 10, 2010

****DRAFT COPY****

PRESENT: Andy Fulton, Chairman; Patricia Myers, Secretary; George Malette, Steve Najjar; Dennis Smith.

GUESTS: Jeff Rouch, Scout Leader Troup 24, John Robechaud Adventurer Patrol Assistant Scout Master, Chris Bolton, Mike Lambert, Bill Bolton with Mt William, Inc.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Andy Fulton called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

II. **New Commission member:** Andy expressed welcome to new Conservation Commission member Dennis 'Smitty' Smith.

III. **Guests:**

Jeff Roush and John Robechaud – Jeff told the Commission that he was planning a second camping event with the scouts this season. Jeff said he was also thinking of a service project for the scouts. He suggested the scouts might plant trees where logging had been done on the town forest. Steve said that particular activity was not necessary, explaining that the forest regenerates itself very well. Jeff said he has a contact who very knowledgeable about trail building and maybe that might be something the scouts could take on.

John introduced himself, saying he works with older scouts in a program called Adventure Patrol. They plan to do a section of the Appalachian Trail this summer and need to do some warm-up hikes in town to prepare. He asked the Commission to give its approval to a planned weekend of hiking and trail clean-up work to be held the 9-11 of April. The trip plan is to hike in to Ferrin Pond and camp (with permission), and to pick up trash and clear limbs from the trail. From there they would hike to Poor Farm Town Forest and camp the second night. On Sunday they would clean up the trail at Poor Farm. There would be 7 scouts and 2 leaders. Each scout is required to prepare a trek plan to leave with their parents.

Steve recommended the CC adopt a policy to cover requests to camp on town lands. After some discussion he offered a motion establishing a Conservation Commission policy stating that **Camping is by permission only. Only the Conservation Commission can give that permission. Camping requests will be decided on a case by case basis.** George seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and all voted in favor of the motion. The new policy will be posted on the CC portion of the town website.

Next Steve addressed the request at hand. He made a motion that the Weare Conservation Commission grant permission to Scout Troop 24 to hike the town owned Alex property at Ferrin Pond and the Poor Farm trails, to do clean-up and brush cutting on those trails, and to camp 1 night at Ferron Pond and 1 night at Poor Farm. This permission is for the weekend of April 9 – 11, 2010. George seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

John said he would provide the WCC with the trek plan, photos from the event, and the Service Action Report after the event.

IV. Mt William, Inc. – Chris Bolton had asked the Commission for time at tonight's meeting to present the plans he has for his property relating to the wood road he is building and the dredge and fill application that the WCC had reviewed at the March meeting. The Commission had decided to send a memo to the DES Wetlands Bureau (see attached) expressing concerns about the road construction and ultimate intentions. The memo was CC'd to Mike Lambert who is in charge of the project for Mt William, Inc. Mr. Bolton said he recognizes now that he should have brought this to the WCC before we received the wetlands application. He said he has become aware of the timber value that his property could have if it were to be properly managed to optimize conditions for growth of the strong young trees. He hired Mike Lambert to prepare a forest management plan and implement it. The new road will be used over the years to access the timber for management and harvest. He turned things over to Mike Lambert.

Mr. Lambert introduced himself and gave a summary of his professional background and interest. He related the time spent on designing the road to minimize wetland impact and provide access to deeper parts of the property. He said he would go down the list of concerns in the WCC memo to the Wetlands Bureau and address each one. He explained the rock crossings or "French Drains", were specifically chosen to be best type of permanent crossing to avoid being a wildlife barrier and reduce the size of the wetlands impact.

Andy asked why they had chosen to use the forestry permitting process to start the road as a temporary logging road when the intention, as all the planning and expense shows, was for it to be permanent. And why decide at this point to convert to the standard wetlands application process?

Vernal Pool identification – Mike said no formal study had been done and is not required. He believes there are no vernal pools impacted by the new forest road.

Photo showing standing water apparently more than 2 months per year. Mr. Lambert said the photo should not have been used.

Mr. Lambert said they have planted native shrubs along the sides of the road to provide an edge effect that will attract a greater wildlife diversity.

At the end of the hearing Mr. Bolton said he would agree to a joint site walk with Wetlands Bureau folks, the WCC, and his representatives sometime during the second week of June.

V. Minutes of February 10, 2010 – The minutes were reviewed and the following amendments were suggested: Andy offered amended language for the last 4 paragraphs of section II, the Melvin Farm Project. After reading his suggestion to the Commission, Pat asked if he would send the changes to her by email so she would be sure to get the wording. Andy agreed to do this. In section III, on the tapping request, a sentence midway down the paragraph was changed to read "Steve was able to use the laptop to find the deed..." There were no other amendments so George made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Steve provided the second. All voted in favor.

VI. Planning Board Issues –

Guerrette and Fitts – lot line adjustment. Tax map 409, lot 54 and 54.1 on Barnard Hill Road. The Commission saw no issues.

Roger Hardy Construction, LLC – subdivision. Tax map 412, lot 37 on River Road.

The Commission noticed that on lot 37-1 the septic line is shown crossing within 125' well setback. Andy stated his memory was that no part of the septic system can be within the well setback. It was also noted that many of the labels for the 50' building to wetland setback are shown on the 25' wetlands buffer lines. These advisory comments will be written up by the Chair and sent to the Planning Board.

VII. Wetlands Bureau issues –

Mt William, Inc – Notice of Administrative Completeness for the Standard Dredge and Fill permit application for wetlands impact on Map 408 lots 133, 135 and Map 409 lot 4. Wetlands Bureau's Kirsten Pulkkinen is assigned to the job.

Mt William, Inc – received a request for Project Review by NH Division of Historical Resources related to its dredge and fill application.

Francisco, Abijah Bridge Road - Permit #2008-02537 for Dredge and Fill and Non-Site Specific issued on 2-5-2010.

VIII. Other:

- Request from Library Director Chris Hague that the Conservation Commission consider sponsoring an outdoor education program by Rudy Bourget. Commission members appreciated the thought but none had the time to commit to the project.
- Fessenden Woods/ Craig Heafield – Andy is working with Paula Bellamore at the Piscataquog Land Conservancy to complete the transfer of the Open Space to town ownership with PLC Conservation Easement.
- SNHPC – scheduled to present the new Piscataquog River Watershed Conservation Plan to the public on March 18, 2010 in New Boston.
- TD Bank will donate to the Weare Historical Society and to the Weare Animal Guardians when bank customers (Conservation Fund is invested there) sign up. It was unclear exactly what is involved but Andy volunteered to find out.
- Hawkes CE public hearing – Attorney Laura Spector of Mitchell and Bates needs to review all documents. The hearing will be during our April WCC meeting. Steve will send out the required public notice.
- Andy reminded Commissioners to review the NRI online and get any comments back to him.

- Elections – on hold until the April meeting. The Commission must also review its By-Laws. In preparation for the formal process in April, Andy admitted to being willing to continue as Chair in 2010. Pat said she was willing to remain secretary.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Commission, Steve made the motion to adjourn. George seconded. All voted in favor. Andy adjourned the meeting at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Myers, Weare Conservation Commission Secretary

Cc: Town Clerk's Office,
BOS Office – Merry Rice
WCC Office files