



TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of September 14, 2006 held at the Memorial Building, 7:00PM

Note: These minutes are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Commission at its next meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 by John Trachy.

Members present were: Daphne Klein; John Trachy; Cynthia Bruss; Ken Jacques; Geobe McCusker; Richard Currier. Absent were Laura Hummel; Ken Downs; Boris Busheuff. Also present was Robert Anderson (Selectmen's representative).

Minutes of the August 10, 2006 meeting were approved without change.

Discussion concerning the Wetlands and Natural Resources Inventory project. John reviewed the proposal by Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and noted that it would essentially be a compilation of existing data with no field verification. An alternative approach including some field work is offered by a Bethlehem NH firm known as Watershed to Wildlife, Inc. The firm will attend the October 12th Conservation Commission meeting.

Funding for the Wetlands and Natural Resources Inventory project was discussed. It was noted that there is about \$7,000 now available in unrestricted town funds. It may also be possible to use some of the Royal Arch funds. John mentioned applications for grants to the NH State Conservation Committee (Moose Plate) and the Connecticut River Joint Commissions. A decision will have to be made by the November meeting as the deadline for a Moose Plate grant application is November 17th.

Cynthia presented suggestions for changes in the Commission's Rules and By-Laws. General discussion regarding the need for 7 members versus 5. Bob noted that the Selectmen have a difficult time finding volunteers for town positions. Some support for a reduction to 5 members and the possible elimination of the cap of 2 alternates. Consensus was to leave as is for now. Discussion regarding the duties of a secretary and whether a minute taker should be employed. John felt that this could be accomplished by a member or alternate. More discussion regarding the position of treasurer and whether this should be eliminated. John volunteered to recast the Rules and Bylaws based on these discussions and present for review at a future meeting.

Discussion regarding the source of funds available to the Commission and the need for an annual town meeting vote to retain unused funds for future use. The merits of a Conservation Fund were discussed. Ken will research and prepare a proposed warrant article authorizing such a fund.



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Discussion regarding the Gile Forest. Cynthia Bruss approached Ed Robinson at NH Fish and Game regarding F&G interest in some town lands and was told that the state already owned the lands. These are shown on the town's inventory as still owned by the town. Initial research indicates that these may have been transferred in the early 1990's. The state now pays the town \$1 per acre (\$6,500 +/-) in lieu of taxes. It was suggested that perhaps the town could forego this payment in exchange for an easement. Bob Anderson to discuss with fellow Selectmen.

John reported on conversation with the Selectmen concerning erosion and sedimentation problems at construction sites and how to reduce the frequency and severity. The Selectmen favor an educational approach, perhaps as an attachment to the building permit. John to see what DES has available and report at the October 12th meeting.

John reported that DES has approved the Dredge and Fill application by the town to replenish the sand at the town beach, limiting the application to 10 yards. Bob Anderson mentioned that the Selectmen were disappointed that the Conservation Commission filed for intervention, thus delaying the project until next year. It was noted that the filing was done to allow the Commission to review the town's application and that the resultant delay to the town was three days. Bob asked for better communications in the future. Bob was asked to present to the other Selectmen the Commission's recommendation for conversion of most of the beach to a "perched" type so as to reduce the need for future sand replenishment.

John noted that a letter was sent to the Planning Board regarding the Commission's concerns with the proposed Matarazzo subdivision.

General discussion regarding the town's policy concerning issuing building permits on Class VI roads. Bob Anderson will check and advise.

Daphne Klein noted the profusion of purple loosestrife in one area of Lake Kolelemook. She will verify ownership of land and report at the October meeting.

Cynthia Anderson mentioned an email from COVERTS concerning support for actions to reduce global warming. On agenda for October meeting.

Daphne moved to adjourn at 09:15. Approved.

Submitted by:

John Trachy