



# *Town of Weare*

## *Conservation Commission*

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### Conservation Commission

Andrew Fulton, Chairman

Stephen Najjar, Vice Chair

George Malette

Wendy Stevens

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION – FEBRUARY 13, 2013 MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Chairman Andy Fulton  
Andy Fulton, George Malette, and Wendy Stevens present  
Guests included Jeff Jackson, Jeff Poirier and Mark Nieman

### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

George suggested edits to the January 9<sup>th</sup> minutes, followed by a motion to approve minutes with said edits. Wendy seconded. George and Wendy voted to approve while Andy abstained. Minutes approved.

### **II. TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Jeff Poirier expressed interest in being part of a trails subcommittee. In the last year he noted motorized vehicles and trucks have been ruining groomed trails on the Eastman parcel. Mark Nieman contacted PLC on the same issue, and signs are now up. No motorized vehicles have been noticed since then. Debris from logging has made it difficult to walk the trails. Jeff would like to join a trails subcommittee and use his snowmobile and groomer and obtain permission to maintain trails on the Eastman parcel. Andy said we would need to coordinate with PLC, our town forester, and check the easement language. There was a discussion about trail guides and maps in order to create more awareness for public and family friendly use. Andy reviewed page 6 of the Eastman easement which noted exceptions could be made. Mark Nieman also noted ATV activity, especially on Christmas Day. He also noted no traffic since signs have been posted, and that people previously driving in the Eastman forest were unaware they were doing anything wrong. Andy hopes to have a response in regards to trail grooming from PLC by the weekend. Andy summarized that it looks like the current volunteers are focused on Eastman and would like to let the subcommittee take form around that parcel as that is where the interest lies for the time being. George asked about interest in other parcels, and creating other maps and trails in the future, and mentioned that other residents were interested in joining the subcommittee.

### **III. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The commission visited the Finance Committee to review Article 25. Andy explained the \$35,000 was already in the Town Forest account, and that the article has a \$0 tax impact. The conservation commission simply needs permission to expend these funds on a specific land purchase in 2013. Andy mentioned that this project ranks high on the natural resource scale, and George mentioned that it fits within our Open Space Plan as well as the town's Master Plan.

### **IV. VOLUNTEER JEFF JACKSON**

Jeff introduced himself and explained that he is interested in joining the conservation commission. He expressed an interest in open space, natural resources, and wildlife habitat. He is interested in getting people outside hiking and has hiked many 4,000 footers including all of them in NH. Jeff did some work with PLC, works a map and compass.

### **V. WEB SITE PROGRESS**

Wendy inquired as to Chipmunk Falls having public access and it was decided to remove that parcel from the public site as it does not have public access or trails. Next she inquired about Craney Hill. Andy gave some background information about it and the Dustin Brook Headwaters, and said there is no easement on the properties. There are four parcels (80 acres) owned by the town, and this acquisition stemmed from a

garage weapons factory that was seized by the federal government. Wendy will work on developing the page for the Dustin Brook Headwaters, which will be more general than the other parcels as there is no public access, yet the property has some significant and interesting aspects as stated in the Natural Resource Inventory Report.

## **VI. WETLANDS BUREAU**

Andy noted that the state and town are not together on their information regarding Chase Park dredge and fill, and the wetlands bureau has requested the conservation commission be copied on all correspondence.

118 S. Sugar Hill Rd. has been sent an inquiry from the wetlands bureau as to the status of their restoration plan.

## **VII. OTHER ITEMS**

- a. Andy mentioned we are still waiting to hear more on the completion of the Chevy Hill/Oliphant baseline report from PLC.
- b. Andy acknowledged Michael Dahlberg's letter of resignation from the commission dated 2/4. All members expressed gratitude and regretfully accepted the resignation.
- c. Andy opened a discussion regarding RSA 672:1 III-b which protects agriculture from being unreasonably prohibited by any municipality. The RSA was read at length, with notations that forestry receives equal protection. Andy noted that the commission is supportive of agriculture. Andy noted on Oliphant, the matter of state law is an element to the puzzle, and this is certainly a back pocket piece of information for future reference.
- d. Andy summarized the Banks project/Article 29 and asked how the town meeting went. Wendy volunteered there were about 50 attendees, no objections or questions at town meeting. The finance committee recommends the Article. Wendy also mentioned Tim Redmond has written a letter of support and she will forward to the commission.
- e. Andy shared the Brown Farm monitoring report which looks good.

George motioned to adjourn and Wendy seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Wendy J. Stevens*