

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 25, 2013**

Present: Steve Hardy, Chairman; Tom Duston, Kathy Thatcher, Lynne Borofsky, Jon McKeon, Selectboard Representative, and Amy LaFontaine, Secretary

1). Visitors – John Caveney stated that he did not think the minutes were an accurate reflection of what was being said at the meeting. In December it was stated by Tom that there were landowners interested in hosting campouts on their property. What is reflected in the minutes is that a hike from Keene to Brattleboro would take 2 to 3 days. Ruth Van Houten stated that she has consulted her insurance company about allowing hiking on her property. If a suit is brought the property owner would have to defend themselves. Ruth also stated that Pam Walton had stated at a previous meeting that there were good eagle scout projects for projects on the lake.

John Caveney asked for a quarterly reporting of the Conservation Fund and Savings Account. They are under the Town Treasurer not under the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

2). Mail – The Friedsam Town Forest Invasive Species Removal Report is now available for review.

3). Tom moved to accept the January 28th minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kathy and passed unanimously.

4). Complaints – Tom has a posting for the bicyclists in Friedsam. He will ask them to come to the next meeting.

5). Grants, Events – There will be a snowshoe event for March 2nd. A 2 to 3 hour hike at 10 AM departing from the Kilburn Trail Head.

6). Spofford Lake Report – There was a proposed ordinance for cutting 250 feet from the lake would need to get a permit enforceable by Code Enforcement. This will not be voted on this year.

B). There was a report of Ice Fishing on Spofford Lake. This is not allowed on Spofford Lake. It was reported to the Chair of the Spofford Lake Association, who passed it on to Fish & Game.

C). The Spofford Lake Association would like the Town to be the owner of the Boat Landing.

D). Jeff Littleton is in the process of obtaining landowner permission for the Spofford Lake Report.

7). Website – Lynne stated that the website is outdated. It is in the process of changing. The website has been hosted free by the Sentinel, but the cost is now the responsibility of the Commission.

8). Tools – Steve will purchase the chainsaw and tools.

9). Trail Development & Land Projects – Tom presented a brochure for adopt-a-trail program. The only issue is for liability for trails that are not all in Chesterfield.

B). Tom may be approaching the Commission to fund his admission fee for a land protection conference. The Colony Project may be used as a case study.

C). There is a film being shot at Madame Sherri's this weekend.

10). Selectmen – Town is investigating redoing the website. In the Town Report under the Treasurer's Report the Conservation Fund is in a CD. The beginning balance in 2012 was \$177,270.82. The Savings Account is \$501.95.

11). Public Comment – Ruth asked about the trails in Hinsdale? The Commission has not purchased any interest in land in other Towns. Ruth was concerned about the volunteers and the Town insurance. Ruth presented the difficulty she had getting insurance for CERTS (Citizen Emergency Response Team) for H1N1 clinic.

12). Adjournment – The next meeting will be March 25th. Jeff Newcomer will be the Chair. April 22nd Kathy will be the Chair. June 3rd Pam will be the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved:

Steve Hardy
Chairman

Date: _____