

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 3, 2013**

Present: Pam Walton, Chairman; Kathy Thatcher, Lynne Borofsky, Tom Duston, Jeff Newcomer, Steve Hardy and Amy LaFontaine

**1). Meeting Minutes** – Tom moved to accept April 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Jeff and passed unanimously.

**2). Permits** –

A). The Charlie Donahue Revocable Trust – 2013-00622 Request for more information: Historic Resources, NH Bureau, Photo without Snow Cover, ways the 56 acres are protected, any onsite alternate layouts.

B). The Charlie Donahue Revocable Trust – 130501-055 Alteration of Terrain

C). Mike Lacroix – 2012-02319 Standard Dredge & Fill Permit

**3). Complaints** – Tom moved to post a document stating:

The Chesterfield Conservation Commission is authorized by the Town Selectmen to manage the Friedsam Town Forest. The CCC has built most of the trails, and they are designed for foot traffic only (hiking, dog walking, snowshoeing, etc.). Wheeled uses of any kind are not allowed. Trail work of any kind, other than the routine picking up of brush, is not allowed without the approval of a Commission member or their designee.

This is a carry in/carry out natural area so please take care with your litter.

Although this is a dog friendly park we ask that for the safety of others you please obey NH RSA 466:31, which says that dogs must be under the control of their owners at all times. Also for the comfort of others using these trails, we ask that you clean up after your dog.

The motion was seconded by Jeff. Will Vogeley was concerned that the handicapped and elderly do not have access to trails. The forest was supposed to be for the use of all. John Caveney asked about any limitations in the deed. Lynne will bring in the Friedsam documents to the next meeting. Friedsam belongs to the Town and is only managed by the Commission. Lynne suggested amending the document for the snowmobile trail. There are 25 miles of Class VI Roads in Chesterfield for bikers. Jeff stated that the trails are built for foot traffic. Pam thanked Mr. Richter for his heartfelt letter. Amy suggested posting a warning prior to closing the trail for wheeled vehicles. The motion passed 4 to 1. Pam and Amy are alternates and not voting members on this issue. Tom suggested Will come with a proposal for handicapped trails, because it is possible to get federal funds.

**4). Grants/Events** - Q2C Trail Grants are due June 14<sup>th</sup>. There is a 20% cash match for the kiosk for trail maps. The amount asked for before was \$1,000. Tom requested 3 kiosk: Ware's Grove, the Center of Town and the Gorge. Lynne asked for letters of

support from the Gorge, the Selectmen and Parks & Rec. Kathy moved to support Lynne's application for the Grant. The motion was seconded by Tom and passed unanimously.

Josh Moyses is an events programmer for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. He is looking for someone to lead a walking tour of Madame Sherri for sometime in July, August or September.

**5). Spofford Lake Report** – Pam reported that there was no new news from Moosewood Ecological. The lake is 4 inches above summer level. She is trying to get more boards taken out.

**6). Website** – The subcommittee has met for the last time. The bill is \$120 for the year. Jeff has cancelled the sovernet account. The spelling of Pisgah under maps is incorrect.

**7). Tools** – Steve spent \$504.45 for a chainsaw, hand tools and a brush hook.

**8). Trail Development & Land Projects** –

A). Lynne reported that she is having one of the big signs replaced in Madame Sherri for free by Carrie Dugan @ the Forest Society. Lynne submitted receipts for \$89.85 for mailboxes and enamel paint.

B). Tom reported that Will Parmalee is working on the Audrey's Meander signs.

C). Ruth reported that she was going to the Selectmen to complain about \$25,000 that has been spent in the fund over the last couple of years. The Commission also spent 5 to 6 thousand at the last meeting. It is her opinion that expenditures need to go before the Town even though it is also her opinion that the \$5,000 on milfoil is wisely spent. Tom stated that the Town Attorney advised the Commission about the broad usage for the fund. It is state regulated. The Commission goes to the Selectmen prior to purchasing land. Ruth stated that Parks & Rec has to go to the Selectmen and Budget Committee for their budget as does OEM. Carole Vogeley thought the taxpayers were misled at the Meeting that the land use change penalty was approved for the Conservation Fund.

D). Tom reported that the gates for \$1,000 previously approved for Mine Ledge Road had been completed for \$600 which he is proposing to come out of the consultation budget.

E). Tom submitted the accounting on the Haley Easement from the Monadnock Conservancy. The Town contributed \$7,500 not the \$13,000 to \$14,000 suggested by John Caveney at the last meeting. None of the Town funds were spent on legal fees. The breakdown is as follows:

MC Professional Services 50 hours	\$2,250
Environmental Site Assessment	\$ 145
Survey Work	\$2,141
Reimbursement for MC Legal Fees	\$1,145
Recording & Registry Fees	\$ 165
Easement Stewardship Fund Payment	<u>\$2,500</u>
	\$8,346

Eight hundred Forty Six Dollars came from the Monadnock Conservancy's Chesterfield Landowner Assistance Fund. The Town has an executory interest in the Haley easement.

F). John Caveney asked about the Trask easement. There was no threat to development. It is located at the end of a Class VI road surrounded by timberland investors. Everyone agrees that the Mitchells, the Hubners and the land in the center of Town are of the utmost importance to the Town. It will be necessary to come to the Town for a bonding issue to protect these properties. The Commission stated that they were willing to raise \$200,000 for the Charlie Donahue property, but the Selectboard at the time was not in support of the project. It is not possible to save enough money to have on hand to protect these properties. The Town has been very generous in underwriting conservation easements.

**9). Other –**

A). John asked the Commission to be cautious when e-mailing. All personal e-mail addresses are on the website. The Commission has discussed meeting electronically with the Selectboard.

B). Tom asked the Commission for \$120 per table to purchase 3 picnic tables for the Gorge. The motion was seconded by Jeff and passed unanimously.

C). Kathy reported that she needed maps for Madame Sherri.

**10). Adjournment** – The next meeting will be August 26<sup>th</sup>. Lynne will be the Chair. The following meeting will be September 23. Tom will be the Chair. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine  
Secretary

Approved:

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Pam Walton  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_