

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2013**

Present: Lynne Borofsky, Chairman; Jeff Newcomer, Tom Duston, Pam Walton, Jon McKeon, Selectboard Representative; and Amy LaFontaine

1). Visitors – Bob Brockmann was present to discuss the tree planting committee at the center of Town. It began during the 250th Anniversary Celebration. There was a gap from then to now. Barbara Girs has arranged for the extension service to come out this Friday at 9AM. Jeff will submit a proposal later.

B). Anne McBride, Land Protection Director, from the Monadnock Conservancy was present to discuss the California Brook Natural Area from Keene to Pisgah. She is requesting \$17,000 (4.6% of the total cost) from Chesterfield for a project within the California Brook Natural Area. The total cost of the project is \$371,300. This is all within tier one NHWAP (Wildlife Action Plan). The grant for LCHIP is due September 13th. This is a 688 acre parcel with 75 acres in Chesterfield. The remaining land is in Keene and Swanzey. The easement will be privately owned by the Conservancy. Two-thirds will still be working forest. A Public Hearing will be required by Selectboard and by State Law. The Selectmen's Office will need a copy of information submitted for public review.

2). Mail – A). NH Coverts Project workshop hosted by UNH Cooperative Extension on July 18th.

B). Monadnock Conservancy request for donation.

C). Bay State Roads Program Improving Stream Crossings on March 26th for John Follett \$20.

Mail will be changed to communication to include e-mail correspondence. Tom will respond to e-mails received and get them on agenda if necessary.

3). Jeff moved to approve the June 3rd minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Tom and passed unanimously. The Commission discussed electronic communication. Once 3 or 4 members are involved it is a quorum. It is okay to respond to e-mail by communication with 1 other or members of the public. Reply All is not acceptable.

4). New Permits – Shoreland Permit Application Chris & Sara Oot on 10 Namaschaug Landing. Pervious Pavers are considered impervious surfaces by the Town of Chesterfield. This will be brought to light by the Building Permit. The Commission does not need to sign off on the application.

5). Permits, Complaints, etc – A). Charles A Donahue Revocable Trust of 1988 Wetlands & Non-Site Specific Permit #2013-00622 for Route 63 Chesterfield was approved with conditions on July 10th. The Alteration of Terrain Permit was also approved on August 6th.

B). Neil & Ann Connelly #2011-314 field inspection report dated July 19th for 36 Echo Cove Way

C). Kathleen Cooke – 156 North Shore Road Land Resources Management 2012-03051 warning of violation. Additional drainage work done outside the permit. No further action is being taken.

D). George & Denise Scholl – 42 Echo Cove Way 2011-314 Letter of Appeal from Tom Hanna. Neil & Ann Connelly are also CC'd.

E). Michael LaCroix – 182 Mountain Road Wetlands & -Site Specific Permit 2012-02319 approved June 4th.

F). State of NH DRED Complete Forestry Notification

G). Forecastle Timber, LLC. Lincoln Road Complete Forestry Notification. Letter from NHDRED dated June 18th. Regarding limiting the amount of basal area removed.

6). Grants, Events – A). Lynne announced the Commission has received the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership (Q2C) Grant up to \$1,400 for 3 Kiosks. Lynne wanted to thank Matt Edson from Hinsdale, John Koopmann and the Mondanock Conservancy for sending a letter regarding how the Commission receives & uses grants. The Kiosks will be in the Center of Town, Ware's Grove and the Gorge. There is a monetary commitment of 20% in kind or \$280. The funds can come out of the budget in 2014. Lynne asked about having a subcommittee? Jon advised that this would need a public notice and minutes.

B). The Brattleboro Art Museum has asked the Commission to host an event at Madame Sherri's Castle Ruins on September 29th at 11 AM. Lynne will try to get the art classes at school to at least finish the mailbox prior to the event.

7). Spofford Lake Association – A). Pam reported that Jeff Littleton is still working on final results in the fall for the Inventory.

B). Fish & Game has declared no Ice Fishing this winter.

C). The Lake has remained at 1" above normal all summer long.

8). Tools- Steve was not present at the meeting. Lynne asked the Commission to go see the new tools.

9). Website – Tom has been posting and blogging on the website.

10). Land Development – A). Tom reported a vandalism event on Old Prouty Road. The police have been notified. The surveillance camera has been stolen.

B). The Oak in Ancient Oaks is being tested for age. It may be the oldest in the County. It is 201 inches in circumference.

C). Jeff moved that the Commission recommend to the Board of Selectmen the expenditure of \$17,000 from the Fund toward the permanent protection from development of 175 acres of land in Chesterfield, part of a larger tract, totally 688 acres, with the additional land being in Keene and Swanzey. Chesterfield's contribution to this project is 4.6% of the total cost, yet 26% of the land in question is in Chesterfield. A

public hearing will be held prior to the vote of the Selectboard. The motion was seconded by Pam and passed unanimously.

D). The trail adoption program is going well.

11). Selectboard – Jon reported that Pat Grace has been hired for the Selectman and Zoning Board Secretary.

12). Other – A). Tom reported that the e-mail correspondence from Dr. Richter regarding the release of Gray Fox, Barred Owl & Red Tailed Hawk was something the Commission did not need to act on. The Commission would support their release.

B). Jeff moved to expend up to \$2,500 from the Conservation Fund for the purchase of 3 trees in the center of Town. The motion was seconded by Tom and passed by majority. Amy abstained. There will be a more specific plan after the Extension Service visits on Friday.

C). The Commission cancelled the meeting for September 23rd. The next meeting will be October 28th.

13). Public Comment – Ruth reported that Parks & Rec budget is \$88,367 with \$93,000 in income as of last Monday. Emergency Management is \$31,000 with \$16,000 reimbursed by the State. She will be meeting with Selectboard regarding the Commission budget and use of the fund.

14). Adjournment – Jeff moved to adjourn at 9:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Tom and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved:

Lynne Borofsky
Chairman