

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 25, 2012**

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

- 1). Rocci Aguirre, Senior Land Development Specialist, was present from the Monadnock Conservancy. A Purchase & Sales has been signed on the 300 acre Colony Property. The Selectboard must approve a land purchase when the Conservation Fund is used. The Town will have an executory interest. A Public Hearing will need to be held at a later date. All the funding has been secured except for the Town. Other funds are coming from LCHIP, DES and Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership. Ruth Van Houten asked about the uses allowed on the property. Rocci stated that due to the number of State agencies involved he didn't know what uses would be allowed. He will have the information at the Public Hearing.
- 2). Jeff moved to approve the December 7<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Lynne and passed unanimously.
- 3). New Permits, Complaints, etc. –
  - A). Kathy reported that she had signed off on the application for the Daly property.
  - B). The Planning Board has a subdivision application on Farr Road with frontage on the CT River. At the request of the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission has visited the site and observed lots of garbage. A complaint has been filed and no word has been reported
- 4). Grants & Events – The Commission will look at dates to be considered for a winter event at the next meeting.
- 5). Spofford Lake Association – David moved to approve up to \$5,000 from the Conservation Fund for the Lake Host Program. The motion was seconded by Lynne and passed unanimously. The Commission submitted \$5,000 for the Program Last Year. Milfoil was actually found by the Program last year.
- 6). Tools – Steve asked for an inventory of tools that should be found in the trailer. The Commission needs Steve to create one.
- 7). Tom moved to recommit \$100,000 from the Conservation Fund to contribute toward the purchase of a conservation easement on the roughly 300 acre Colony Property surrounding Colony Pond. The easement will be held by the Monadnock Conservancy with the Town of Chesterfield holding an executory interest. This expenditure is subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen and can only be finalized by the Conservation Commission after a Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Kathy and passed unanimously. Steve was concerned about multi-use of the trails. His family owns horses and would like to be able to access more trails. Pisgah Park has approximately 6,000 acres in Chesterfield. There was concern that more private monies have not been used to fund the Colony Project.

7). Other –

A). There will be a meeting for the Shoreland Protection Ad Hoc Committee tomorrow night. Rick Carrier, David Wood, Pam Walton, Chet Greenwood, Bayard Tracy, Brad Chesley, Harriet Davenport, and Carol Ross have been invited to the meeting. This is a meeting to discuss development on the lake and ways to monitor violations.

B). Will Vogeley asked about the gates & bars on the Dort Property? Kathy was present and John Herrick is in charge of trail maintenance for the Friends of Pisgah. The Friends of Pisgah pays taxes on the property and there was lots of vandalism so the gates were installed. John Caveney wanted to go on record about being opposed to the locked gates around town. He has had discussion with Ryan Owens of the Monadnock Conservancy and the Conservancy is also not in favor of locked gates. Will Vogeley asked about handicap access to trails in the California Brook Area. The gates in California Brook belong to the Selectmen.

C). Ruth stated that from January 2009 to August 2011 there was \$52,437 expended by the Commission. There was \$190,000 available in the Conservation Fund at Town Meeting 2011. Ruth was uncomfortable with unelected officials controlling the expenditures of that amount of money. The Fund was established in 1993 as a current use penalty to be used for protection of land resources. There was \$7,000 from the Fund contributed to the Legal Fees and Survey for the Haley Easement. The gates were \$2,800 each. The 3<sup>rd</sup> set of gates will not be installed. The Fund has also been used for the reimbursement grants that the Commission has received. The Fund could be used for purposes assigned to Conservation Commissions. Tom checked with the Town Attorney & Local Government Center before using the Fund to make a parking lot in Friedsam, Land in Current Use is not necessarily open to the public. Some members of the public agreed to the Fund with the understanding that it should be used for land purchases only.

8). Adjournment – The next meeting will be a public hearing on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Jeff Newcomer will be Chair. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine  
Secretary

Approved:

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Tom Duston  
Chairman

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