

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2012**

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

1). Visitors – The Easement Deed was discussed. Ruth van Houten wanted a copy in large print to look at. Draft agreement was approved by the Selectboard 2 weeks ago conditional upon the language to be changed. The questions are about non-motorized access. The easement states “non motorized pedestrian traffic outdoor recreational use.” Tom stated that a Class A trail is a public ROW. The Town will be named executory interest. Jon stated that he will be sure that the easement does not encroach on road maintenance. The final easement language will be reviewed by the Selectboard before it is signed. Tom stated that the landowner does have the right to post land.

Ruth stated that she is uncomfortable with un-elected officials controlling the \$170,000 in the fund. In her opinion, \$55,000 has been spent on items that she would not consider Conservation. The Commission has received Selectboard approval before expending funds for the Gates and the Trash pick-up on Access Road. Lynne reported that the Fund was used for reimbursement grants. Ruth stated that she did not look at reimbursements coming in.

2). Mail – Saving Special Places Conference coming up and a NH Drinking Water Protection Workshop.

3). Tom moved to approve February 15th minutes as amended pending clarification of the 250 foot buffer around the heron rookery compromise and pending clarification of the Monadnock Conservancy having a signed Purchase & Sales Agreement. The motion was seconded by Lynne and passed unanimously.

4). Permits, Complaints, etc –

A). Dave Thomas – Shoreland Permit

B). John Daly request for more information

C). Charlie Donahue – DOT request for driveway access for 26 cluster development off Route 63.

5). Grants & Events – Lynne suggested having an open gate event. Tom and Lynne will be making a presentation at a Conservation Workshop at Antioch tomorrow.

6). Spofford Lake Report – Lake Education Committee has finished its work. Letter will be sent to all property owners on the Lake and the CT River before DES does a presentation at the end of June. The presentation is scheduled for the last Thursday in June. The informational letter will also state that the property owner is responsible for violations, not contractors.

The Town is working on an ordinance to allow local Code Enforcement to enforce Shoreland Protection. This will need Planning Board approval and a vote at Town Meeting.

7). Website – Tom will e-mail Jeff with a section about California Brook to be posted on the site. The Commission has been asked to plant more trees by the Selectboard. Tom stated that a

plan should be in place before any more trees are planted. The plan should be from the new Town Office Building down to the Library. Jeff met with the company filming at Madame Sherri's. A release needs to be signed by the forest society as they are the property owners.

8). Tools – Steve stated the Tools will be ready to go at the Commission's next event.

9). Trail Development & Land Projects – Tom reported that their had been 5 acts of vandalism.

A). The Plexiglass at Madame Sherri has been destroyed and the sign has been stolen. The Commission has partnered with the Forest Society and Chesterfield Historical Society to offer a \$500 reward. The Brattleboro Historical Society has offered to replace the sign.

B). Trail Maps were burned at Anne Stokes

C). Jim O'Neil Forest sign has been knocked down

D). There have been cars driving around the gates on the Colony Property

E). Over 30 Cedar Posts for Boardwalk have been thrown in the Pond.

F). Voss sign company will be featuring a Commission trail sign in catalog.

G). Tom presented a list of work to be done this year. Kathy suggested the trail needed to be redirected on the upper section of Sargent Trail. Tom asked if the Town would be willing to mow the lower lot on Twin Brook Road with the Picnic Table? Jon will bring it up at the next Cemetery Commission meeting. The Mountain Laurel needs to be mowed over Indian Pond to the overlook. Steve suggested getting some young laborers. Ruth was upset that the Commission wanted to hire people to keep hiking trails open and not the debris built up in the protected stream. Tom stated that keeping streams clean would be a full-time job. Lynne stated that the Commission created these trails and were obligated to keep them clear. Signs need to be reattached at the Plain Road Trailhead. Ribbons need to be removed that were put up for a run. Tom proposed meeting the 3rd Saturday of every month to work on these projects. The first work session will be April 21st at 9 AM. Meet at the Transfer Station.

H). Tom reported that there would be a trail opening from Keene to Pisgah in the fall.

10). Other – the new meeting day will be Monday. The next meeting will be April 23rd. David or Tom will be the Chair. The following meeting will be the May 21st, Lynne will be the Chair. June 25th, Jeff will be the Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved:

Steve Hardy
Chairman

Date: _____