

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2012**

Present: Jeff Newcomer, Chairman; Tom Duston, Steve Hardy (arrived at 7:40 PM), and Amy LaFontaine

- 1). Visitors – No comments
- 2). Mail Distribution – Monadnock Conservancy Report and NHDES Report. There is an invoice from Voss Signs for signs.
- 3). Tom moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2012 as amended. The motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously. There was a brief discussion about how the Conservation Commission was initially formed to accept funds for the acquisition of Ware's Grove. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was the federal agency that provided the majority of the funds.
- 4). Permits, Complaints –
 - A). Receipt of Complaint on Route 9 Anthony & Marisa Martini 2012-00058. Clearing 2.3 acres without a permit or proper authorization.
 - B). Paul Hubner – Letter of Closure for LOD see new LOD 12-030
- 5). Grants, Events – Jeff stated that there was a work session on the Bear Mountain Trail last weekend. Signs were put up and a portion of the trail has been cleared. Contact Lynne about working on flyers.
- 6). No Spofford Lake Report or Website Report
- 7). Tools – Steve reported that there is one chainsaw missing, saw gas container and bar & chain oil. Steve will purchase fuel conditioner as well as other items he thinks are needed.

Tom would like to put the itemized list of vandalism in the minutes:

A). Cutting of pin on gate at east end of Prouty Road. A 1" steel pin, part of the locking mechanism on the gates at the two ends of Prouty Road, was sawed through at the east end and the gate was opened for vehicles (late winter). In 2009, Prouty Road, a Class A Trail by earlier vote of Town Meeting, was declared and posted for "no motorized vehicles" by the Selectmen. As I'm sure you know, keys were given to all interested parties in Chesterfield and Swanzey (east gate is at Swanzey line), including the four (soon to be three) landowners.

Rob Koning, the steel fabricator who made and installed the gates, has fabricated a new pin of hardened steel and is providing it to us at no charge.

B). Moving of stones on side of gate at west end. This has happened a couple of times and allows egress by motorized vehicles, again in violation of town ordinance (most recently mid-winter). Through the years the Chesterfield police have been informed by the Whitford/Hoods, Pat Haley, and others, of trouble in this area, and arrests have been made.

As soon as the Colony property changes hands, we will go back to this problem and hope to solve it with either steel posts (expensive), or by having the town move the giant rock from the lower Twin Brook Lot to the right of the gate in question.

C). Throwing of Boardwalk posts at Colony Pond into the water. Several dozen hemlock posts stored at Colony Pond were thrown into the pond.

These were retrieved and hidden in the woods. As soon as the property changes hands and permits are obtained (the latter depends on the former), the board walk (two planks wide) will be installed across the stream in the grassy area below the dam.

D). Theft of the Madame Sherri Poster at the parking lot and vandalism of the kiosk (tearing out plexiglass, etc.). This occurred late fall and the CCC, in partnership with the Chesterfield Historical Society and the Forest Society (land owner) , and after consultation with Duane Chickering, posted a reward.

The Brattleboro Historical Society is obtaining a new copy of the poster (expensive!) and the CCC will install it in a refurbished kiosk.

E). Breaking the posts and knocking down of "James O'Neil, Jr. Forest" sign. This occurred in the fall and luckily Bart's people found the sign and delivered it to me. The sign itself was not damaged and we will re-install it when we get the time.

F). Burning of trail maps at Madame Sherri map box. This occurred in the summer. Maps are replaced periodically. With the help of Mrs. Walsh at the Chesterfield School, a plan was already in the works to replace our trail map boxes with new ones painted by her students in art class (as were the originals!).

The Town will be mowing around the picnic table in Friedsam.

8). Meeting Schedule – The next meeting will be June 28th at the Town Hall at 6 PM. Lynne will be the Chairman. The SLA presentation on the Shoreland Protection will be at 7 PM. The following meeting will be August 27th at 7:30 PM at the Town Offices. September is scheduled for September 24th.

9). The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved: _____
Jeff Newcomer
Chairman

Date: _____