

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
AUGUST 27, 2012

**Present:** Chairman Tom Duston, Lynne Borofsky (acting chair for this evening), David Wood, Jeff Newcomer and Steve Hardy (arriving at 7:45 pm)

Borofsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She asked the audience if there was any business they would like to bring forward. Ruth Van Houten mentioned the letter of thanks she had sent to DES regarding Jay Aube's presentation of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act at the Town Hall on June 28<sup>th</sup> and the letter of response from Thomas Burack, DES Commissioner, acknowledging the kind words. A copy of that letter was sent to the Conservation Commission. Borofsky also thanked David Wood for his contribution at that meeting and the research he had done.

**Mail Distribution:**

1. Cheshire County Conservation sent an open donation request to the CCC. Duston recommends that because they have received other donation requests from Monadnock Conservancy and Pisgah Park that this be discussed at the next meeting. The Board agreed.
2. Ann Trzasko on Mountain Rd had called as a concerned abutter with work being done by CT Valley Environmental. This will be given to Kathy Thatcher when she returns.

**Review minutes of June 28, 2012**

*Newcomer moved to approve the amended meeting minutes. Wood seconded the motion, which carried.*

**Complaints**

Borofsky advised that Jill Diesl had complained about a water diversion coming into her yard due to the work of a neighbor. Duston stated that through the year there have been many complaints from County Rd/Route 63 area. This will be given to Thatcher when she returns.

**Grants**

It was noted that Thatcher has been working with Jeff Littleton for a grant on invasive species in Friedsam Forest. Borofsky had a pamphlet with pictures of those invasive species.

**Website**

Duston had asked if there was a description on the website of the trail work that Borofsky had done. She will send the information to Newcomer to be posted on the website.

### **Events**

Borofsky advised of a Monadnock Conservancy “Walk Through Hike” that was scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>. This is the same day at the Pumpkin Fest in Keene. Alternate dates were discussed. Duston will contact the conservancy to see if the date could be changed.

### **Tools**

Borofsky advised that the Conservation tool trailer is stored at Hardy’s yard. She stated that at the last trail clearing Duston’s rake had been broken and the CCC should replace it. She noted there is a need for more metal rakes, bow saws, folding saws and chain saw. Hardy will look at the equipment and see what is needed to be replaced and/or purchased. He will bring his recommendations and prices to the next meeting.

### **Land Projects**

1. Borofsky advised that all signage for the Bear Mountain Connector and Trail are done.
2. Duston advised that a portion of the Bear Mountain Connector trail has been cleared by Graham Golden. The trail is ½ complete. Duston will go out to check it out and let Golden know.
3. A bill from Robert Hardy for trail clearing was presented for \$120 along with the reimbursement request from Green Mountain Forestry for parts. Borofsky authorized payment. The checks will be sent out this week.
4. Borofsky advised that the large sign at Indian Pond is off the holders but is not harmed. Duston will add bolts to fix the sign.

### **Visitor – Jeff Littleton**

Littleton was present to discuss the Invasive Species Grant through the Conservation District. He advised that 8 applications for the grant were received and Chesterfield’s grant request for Friedsam Forest won. The grant is for \$3,000.

Littleton stated there are 3 phases to the project:

1. Community outreach and education
2. Removal
3. Maintenance plan

Community outreach and education would be scheduled in September and would take 2 – 2 ½ hours. This would be an indoor session on a Saturday morning September 15<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>. Duston stated that in regard to setting the date, Thatcher will be asked to call the Chesterfield School to negotiate the date.

Removal of the invasive species would be done in October. This would be a volunteer day. Littleton has some college students that will be working on the project. Plots will be set up where the mechanical removal will take place.

Maintenance plan will be for 5 years. Littleton will develop the plan in October. A report will be sent to the District and the Town. The District may use this as a workshop.

Hardy asked about mapping the area. How are you going to remove the invasive plants? Littleton advised mechanically. No herbicides will be used. This is part of the grant protocol. Hardy stated there are safe herbicides that can be used and it should be addressed in the workshop. Littleton stated it would be addressed in the workshop.

Hardy stated that NRCS has funding to offset the cost of herbicides for Technical Service Providers (TSP). Littleton stated he was not a TSP. Hardy stated the people should see there is a broad array of treatments to remove invasive plants.

Littleton advised the grant is for mechanical removal. Hardy stated there are a lot of federal funds to do this type of work. Duston stated the grant was made of a specific purpose. Duston suggested separating the two issues and have another grant for herbicides. Hardy stated it should be done at the same time and there would be a comparison between mechanical and herbicides. We should go forward to look at other options because in his experience mechanical does not work.

Hardy stated that the workshop would address both mechanical and herbicides but the herbicides would not be applied. Newcomer asked that Hardy come back to the commission with a proposal. Hardy stated the areas should be mapped out. Littleton advised that 2 areas will be mapped. Thatcher will get back to Littleton about the workshop date.

Hardy asked to continue the discussion of the Invasive Species at Friedsam Forest. He stated there should be a baseline of invasive plants plotted where they are. Littleton agrees that a comprehensive study would be good. Hardy stated it is such a big problem that we need to look at herbicides. He suggests doing a chemical treatment then a mechanical one. He'd like to see where it is and quantify it. Littleton stated that is one of the things we will do, quantify it. A copy of the grant was given to Hardy.

### **Spofford Lake – David Wood**

Wood made a proposal for shared funding of the Spofford Lake Comprehensive Inventory by the CCC and the Spofford Lake Association (SLA). A map of the Spofford Lake Watershed area was presented along with the information that would be included in the inventory. Under NH RSA 483, NH – Lakes Management and Protection Plan has encouraged and assisted individual NH lakes to complete an inventory and develop a management plan. Duston noted that it is interesting that we just got a complaint from a lake resident about water flows above her house. This inventory would address such issues as water flows.

Littleton stated there would be 2 phases of work:

1. Mapping and calculation about the Shoreland and watershed areas.
2. Completion of wildlife ecological questions

Littleton stated he would be willing to do a presentation to the Spofford Lake Association and the Town.

Wood stated that a majority of the information that would be included in the inventory exists but it is not combined. This would get all the information in one report. Pam Walton was present from the SLA. She stated that Spofford Lake is the jewel of Chesterfield and we need to protect it. Through the Spofford Lake Host program, milfoil has been found. When it is DES comes in to try and mitigate. If we have the tools and programs in place, DES would look at this information and could release more funds to assist in the removal of milfoil and other invasive weeds. The Town would be more apt to get funds from the State to help.

Wood stated the SLA has committed up to \$3,000 to support this project with matching funds from the Town. Walton suggested starting with ½ or \$1,500 each to support the proposal. Borofsky stated she supports the project but suggests that we give each commission member time to review the proposal and vote at the next meeting. This would also give the Selectboard opportunity to review the information. Borofsky stated we need to organize a community outreach to get people informed.

Van Houten stated she didn't know about the procedures; it's all new to her. She expressed her disappointment that the Selectboard is not leading the charge in this and noted there wasn't even a summer meeting this year. Van Houten stated Irene had caused problems with debris in Catsbane Brook and the CCC wouldn't allow it to be cleaned up. Now the Selectboard is dubbing around to get a grant for \$3,000.

Borofsky stated in response to Van Houten's comment the Town needs more information about what's come up on the lake. If it doesn't come up in February or March for Town Meeting people may not know what's going on and the results.

Littleton stated there are 95 questions put in 10 categories. Duston asked if there were any way to identify problems with regard to the complaint tonight. Littleton stated the inventory doesn't show small areas but 2 acre sections. Steep slopes and areas of erosion would have impacts of the health of the watershed.

### **Trail Development**

Greenway Project – Borofsky stated that 307 acres went into Conservation Easement and the property is now owned by Forecastle Timber. The Greenway Project goal is to have a trail from Brattleboro to Keene. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> there were 30 management trainees from C&S and as a community service they worked with us to complete a trail section was done in 1 day. She had pictures of the project and some wildlife they saw. They built bog bridges over wet areas; it was a very successful day.

Duston advised there is a proposal to establish an "adopt a trail program". This will be tabled until next meeting. He presented a map showing the areas that Monadnock Conservancy was pursuing an LCHIP grant. There were 2 areas in Chesterfield. The conservancy wasn't requesting funds for this project from Chesterfield but did request a statement of continuing to support this project. The commission reviewed Duston's draft statement of support.

*Borofsky moves to approve the statement. Newcomer seconded the motion, which carried.*

List of maintenance tasks – A workday is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Town Offices at 9:00 am. Tasks will include filling and painting signs, Indian Pond sign. Borofsky will follow-up to request mail box donations from area stores.

**2013 Budget**

The commission reviewed the proposed budget.

*Duston moves to accept the budget as presented. Borofsky seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ross  
Secretary

Approved:

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Lynne Borofsky  
Chair person for this meeting

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