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Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 12, 2006

Attendance: Commission members Mike Pulsifer, Carol Haas, John Herrick, David Sterling, Jonah Rosenfield and Dick Bauman; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara. John Greene, representing the Sprague Corporation, also attended.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pulsifer at 7:02.
2. By unanimous vote, the Commission accepted the June 1 special meeting minutes as written.
3. The review of correspondence was deferred to later in the meeting. (See item 8.)
4. **Great Pond Easement and Boat Storage Rules.** The Commission reviewed the Sprague Corporation's latest Great Pond Easement draft and an initial draft of proposed boat storage rules.

After reviewing the proposed rules in depth, the Commission found them to be reasonable and clearly expressed. The rules discussion concluded with the Commission asking John to make the following changes for a second review at our August meeting:

- Limit issuance of permits to 1 per household.
- Restrict size of boats allowed in storage area to 18' in length.
- State that a fee may be charged for boat storage permits.
- Remove all references to a specific Town official who will administer the rules.
- With respect to modification or amendment of the rules, incorporate the idea that either the Corporation or the Town may initiate changes, with the consent of the other party.

The Commission's review of the draft Easement determined that previously requested changes had been made and no other changes were required. Maureen will proceed to obtain a survey of the area to be deeded from Oest Associates.

Before proceeding to the next topic, members of the Commission complimented John for the good work he has done and expressed their appreciation to the Sprague Corporation for their cooperation and efforts to move the project forward.

5. **Gull Crest Cape Nordic Trail Proposal.** Various Commission members expressed themselves concerning the Town Council's actions on phase 1 and 2 of Cape Nordic's ski trail proposal. Members who had recommended conditional approval of phase 1 were pleased with Council approval of that phase. The Council's approval of a phase 2 engineering analysis engendered more discussion, focusing on the lack of any reference to the possibility of reducing the trail's length or other impact mitigation strategies. Some members saw this as a problem, others did not.

The discussion concluded with a determination that nothing further should be done with the Gull Crest Master Plan until some future time. The members also agreed that upon completion of the outer loop marsh crossing project, future projects would be planned for trails in Winnick Woods and other areas where significant work is needed.

- Before proceeding to the next agenda item, the Commission discussed the summer meeting schedule and decided that it would not be necessary to meet again until August.
6. **Trails Day.** The Commission decided to postpone this year's trails day project (the outer loop marsh crossing) until some time in the Fall. A date would be determined at the August meeting. In the meantime, Maureen will obtain information about floating dock systems, which have been suggested as a means of bridging the flowing water that crosses the trail route.
 7. **Stonegate Trail Update.** Carol advised the Commission that the volunteer who will be replacing the Stonegate trail bridges wants to have his plans and material requirements reviewed on site before proceeding. Mike Duddy will make the site visit when he has the time.
 8. Maureen informed the Commission that purple loosestrife eating beetles will soon again be available from the Rachael Carson National Wildlife Refuge office in Wells. As in previous years, the beetles are to be placed in areas having significant stands of the noxious weed. Maureen asked for a volunteer project leader and Carole responded. Several other members also expressed their willingness to help out. The work should begin in late July or early August when the beetles become available.
 9. **Planning Board.** Maureen informed the Commission that it is being asked for a recommendation to the Planning Board concerning issuance of a Resource Protection Permit allowing construction of a driveway across RP2 wetlands. The driveway would provide access to a parcel off Hannaford Cove Road.

After considering information provided by Maureen, including a letter and attachments from an abutting property owner, the Commission determined that this Permit application was not materially different from similar applications that had been recommended for approval in the past. Therefore, by unanimous resolution, the Commission recommended that the subject Resource Protection Permit application be approved by the Planning Board.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37. The next regular Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2006.