

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 10, 2006

Attendance: Commission members Mike Pulsifer, Mike Duddy, Carol Haas, David Sterling and Dick Bauman; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pulsifer at 7:05.
2. By unanimous vote, the Commission accepted September's meeting minutes as written.
3. **Correspondence:**
 - In a letter to the Assistant Town Manager, David expressed his reluctant decision not to seek another term on the Conservation Commission. As stated in the letter, David's made the decision because, for health reasons, he can no longer participate in the more arduous Commission activities and therefore feels he should make way for someone who is not so restricted. David's long and dedicated service to the Town in various capacities was recognized by Commission members and a letter of thanks to David, with copies to the Town Board and Town Manager, will be prepared.

On a similar subject, Maureen advised the Commission the Jonah Rosenfield plans to resign from the Commission. Jonah believes that his increasing family obligations will preclude his participating in Commission activities for the foreseeable future.
 - Vegetative Buffer Conference. A conference announcement from the Maine Nonpoint Source Training and Resource Center was distributed. Conference attendance will be considered a training activity for a Commission member who wishes to attend and as such the Town will pay the registration fee.
4. **Trail Improvement needs.**
 - Cross Hill. The Commission was advised of an email Mike Pulsifer sent to Tom Brady, who has volunteered to coordinate Cross Hill trail work. Mike's email offered to help Tom organize a work day sometime this fall. In response, Tom contacted interested Cross Hill neighbors to ask when they would not be available. At this time, a work day has not been scheduled. Dick plans to follow up with Tom if a date is not set in the near future.
 - Eagle Scout Projects. Nicholas Quatrano recently completed his project which called for construction of a 'foot bridge' over a small stream on the Vernon Road to Great Pond trail. Dick saw the new bridge and commented on the good job Nick had done. The Commission decided to send Nick a letter of thanks for successfully completing his project.

Randall Hobbs informed Maureen that he plans to initiate his boardwalk construction project in Winnick Woods on October 21.
 - Gull Crest floating boardwalk. Maureen reported that she had discussed floating dock systems for use on the outer loop trail with four area suppliers. Two of the firms, *Great Northern Docks* and *Custom Float Systems* responded with written bids. After reviewing the bids, the Commission unanimously approved a

resolution authorizing Maureen to have *Custom Float Systems*, the low bidder, supply and install an aluminum dock system. It was mentioned that several telephone poles previously delivered to the site will have to be moved out of the way.

- Stonegate bridges. Carole reported on a site visit she and Mike Duddy made recently to the three Stonegate trail bridges that are to be reconstructed. Confirming previous discussions, the plan is to use box beams cut to 16 and 23 foot lengths by Public Works for two of the bridges. Public Works employees will also attach 2 by 4 'nailers' to the beams and deliver them to the closest trail head.

Based on information and pricing obtained by Carole, the Commission decided to consider decking the bridges with 'CorrectDeck', a long life composite material made in Maine. Before it is ordered, it will have to be determined if the material is strong enough to deck a four foot wide bridge carried by two bridge beams and if it can be secured with nails. If not, ordinary pressure treated lumber will be used.

The third Stonegate trail bridge requiring reconstruction was also discussed. That bridge is a two span structure currently supported in the middle by a hummock of soft, waterlogged soil. Each spring rushing water washes one span downstream. To remedy the situation, Mike Duddy reiterated his idea of supporting the spans with a rock-filled crib that would be built on the hummock. After discussion, Commission members agreed that the crib approach should work and would be the easiest one to implement.

The previously announced work day for Stonegate bridge construction is October 14th. Depending on turnout, the plan for that day is to construct the box beam bridges and start work on the crib structure. Before Saturday, the decking material will have to be selected and, if possible, delivered to the nearest trail heads. Whether sufficient manpower will be available to carry the box beams to the work sites is a concern as well.

- Alewives Creek bridges on Great Pond trail. Last Saturday, Commission members and volunteers transported lumber and made repairs to these structures, which had been damaged by vandalism and rot. The hard work done by volunteers, including Mike Duddy's family, was mentioned for special appreciation.

It was noted that these bridges require frequent maintenance due to especially harsh conditions in the area. Consequently, at a future time the Commission will consider replacing the existing bridges with structures that do not require as much maintenance.

5. **Planning Board.** No items requiring review by Conservation Commission are on the Planning Board's agenda at this time.
6. **New England Cotton Tail at Winnick Woods Update.** Review of this item was postponed to the November meeting.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25. The next regular Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2006.