

## Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting September 3rd, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chairman Sherman at 7:00 PM.

Members attending: John Sherman, Ralph Pisapia, Peter Miller, Robert LeCount, Paula Wanzer, Mark Billings

Alternate members attending: Jacquie Colburn, Robert Davis, Dan Heyduk

Vice-chairman Sherman appointed alternate member Dan Heyduk to serve as an acting member throughout the meeting.

### Approval of Minutes

On motion of Pisapia, seconded by Billings, the minutes of August 6th were approved by unanimous vote.

### Dredge and Fill

The following Applications to the Department of Environmental Services have been reviewed since the last report:

John F. Finn  
60 Veasey Shore Road  
Tax Map U-38, Lot #9

Recommend approval.  
Approved with the request that the beach be made into a perch beach before replenishing with new sand.

Joanne W. Petrillo  
24 Little Road  
Tax Map U-31, Lot #3A

Recommend rejection.  
Do not believe that dug in boathouse is the least environmental impact. This is a change in position from that rendered by the Commission in 2007 to Tata.

### Treasurer's Report

No report. Pisapia will provide update during the first meeting in October, when work on the 2010 budget will commence.

### Page Pond

Billings and Sherman inspected the Blueberry Hill end of the property, where the timber harvest is in progress. The Range Road has been improved significantly to allow for transport of logs. Billings was surprised by the size of the staging area, which is

approximately one-half acre large. On the whole, the removal of timber seems to be a clean operation thus far, and Billings and Sherman expressed satisfaction with the work being done.

The question arose as to what to do with the Range Road after the Blueberry Hill portion of the timber harvest is complete. The improved condition of the road, with its large adjacent clearing, could create a public nuisance. Various options were discussed, including gating the road. Pisapia moved, seconded by Billings, that the road be restored to its prior condition of travel following conclusion of this portion of the timber cut, so that passage is no more or less difficult than originally. Because the Range Road is a class VI road, Miller questioned whether the Conservation Commission has jurisdiction. The consensus of the Commission was that the Board of Selectmen would support the proposed action. Sherman noted that the Commission must act promptly because this portion of the timber harvest will conclude in a few weeks. Motion passed 6 in favor, 1 opposed. Logger Matthew Jamison will be instructed to create berms in the road with his grader to mimic the impediments that existed in the road prior to improvement. Heyduk noted that these berms will help prevent erosion from water run-off.

Billings asked where the staging area at the Quarry Road end of the property will be located and whether it also will be a half-acre in size. Need to confer with forester Shaun Legueux.

Miller requested that Legueux be instructed to make timber harvest proceeds payable to Town of Meredith, not Commission Chairman Don MacFarlane. Sherman to follow up.

#### Natural Resource Inventory Phase II

Colburn informed the Commission that Rick Van de Poll has submitted his final report. Hard copies and disk copy will be placed in the Commission office. Members should read this document prior to Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, to facilitate review at our next meeting.

#### Volunteer List

No update.

#### Invasive Species

Pisapia continues to receive communications of concern from residents of Meredith and neighboring towns, indicating enhanced public awareness of the threats posed by invasive species and the need for ongoing education.

#### Signage

Miller submitted the specifications for the Leighton, Smyth, and additional trail signs (with prototype photos) to four sign makers. The lone bidder was Ian Graphics of Northfield, Bill Becker proprietor. His cost estimates are: Smyth sign, \$432 for single-

sided lettering and \$552 for double-sided lettering; Leighton sign, \$725; trail signs \$200 each, all signs to be made of western red cedar.

Coincidentally, Smyth Easement property owner Lou Kahn informed Miller that Meredith resident Warren Clark had volunteered to make the Smyth sign.

On motion of Pisapia, seconded by Billings and approved by a vote of 7 - 0, Miller was instructed to offer the Leighton sign contract to Ian Graphics and to approach Warren Clark regarding the Smyth Easement and trail signs. Commission will reimburse Clark for cost of materials. Should Clark opt not to volunteer, these contracts will be offered to Ian Graphics.

Because the west-facing side of the Smyth Easement sign will not be highly visible to oncoming traffic, that sign will have lettering only on its east-facing side.

### Town Forest Ordinance

The draft prepared by Sherman, Heyduk, and MacFarlane was reviewed. Commission members seemed satisfied with the Allowed Activities and Prohibitions sections of the draft. Discussion focused on whether to add non-town forest conservation lands to the scope of the document, whether the document could be called an ordinance given the absence of fines and penalties, and whether the Commission has jurisdiction to enact an ordinance. Commission will seek input from town counsel regarding these three matters, Heyduk to confer with counsel, Miller accompanying.

### Smyth Easement Connector Trail

Heyduk and Miller have been on the easement property four times to route the trail. The various problems posed by the terrain, particularly one steep slope and one brook/wetland crossing, have been solved and a provisional trail has been flagged. Heyduk and Miller will walk the proposed route with property owner Lou Kahn tomorrow morning to reach consensus on trail location.

### 186 Acre Forest Trail Day

The work project with AMC trail crew was postponed due to inclement weather. No make up date has been scheduled.

### New Business – Keller Easement

Sherman noted that Mr. Keller has written a letter to the Board of Selectmen (with copy to Conservation Commission) asking whether the Town is interested in acquiring a 10 acre piece of land that abuts the easement for conservation purposes. Sherman to communicate with John Edgar regarding how the town would like to proceed.

### Announcements

Sherman noted that the new town manager will host a reception for elected and appointed officials on Sept 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. All Conservation Commission members and alternates are invited.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller, Secretary