

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting October 1st, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman MacFarlane at 7:05 PM.

Members attending: Don MacFarlane, Peter Miller, Robert LeCount, Mark Billings, Paula Wanzer

Alternate members attending: Dan Heyduk, Robert Davis

MacFarlane appointed Heyduk and Davis to serve as acting members throughout the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Billings, seconded by Davis, the minutes of September 17th were approved by unanimous vote.

Dredge and Fill

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

Town of Meredith
49 Waukegan Street
Tax Map U-05, Lot #2

Recommend approval
Stabilize 45 feet of Lake Waukegan
waterfront

Phoenix Realty Trust
61 Dale Road
Tax Map U-29, Lot #1A-8

Recommend approval
Remove and replace existing patio and
retaining wall (same location and size)

The following application to the Meredith Zoning Board of Adjustment has been reviewed since the last report:

Edward DeSousa
28 East Shore Drive
Tax Map R-20, Lot #L11

Recommend approval
New location of rebuilt shed
within wetland buffer

Page Pond Timber Harvest

The logger is cutting trees in the Quarry Road area now.

Both Billings and MacFarlane report that the Blueberry Hill portion of the cut looks clean.

The town has received two additional checks in the amount of \$5,532.90 and \$2,619.98, bringing the total received to date to \$51,117.69.

Volunteers

Kim Kortz, who lives near the Hamlin Conservation Area and hikes those trails frequently, has expressed an interest in assisting with future trail projects.

Wanzer reports that the poster for the upcoming 186 Acre Forest trail work day is done.

Signs

No word from the two sign makers since our last meeting.

Hamlin – Sept 26th Trail Work Day

An energetic crew of seven commission members and volunteers, led by Billings, accomplished most of the items on the punch list. This included removing overhanging branches from the kiosk, weather proofing the kiosk roof singles, removing branches that obscured visibility of the road sign, weather proofing edges of signs on the blue trail, and replacing support timbers for bridge #5 handrail. Mark Tuckerman advised the commission that the decking of the six bridges does not need attention at this time.

Volunteer Lou Kahn reports that he has removed nearly all the blowdowns on the red trails with chainsaw.

186 Acre Forest

On October 10th, the AMC trail crew will be on-site to assist with rock work on some of the trails. Meet at 9:00 AM at Community Center parking lot, then carpool to Bonney Shores access point.

Rotarian Bob LeCount still pursuing the matter of the bridges, which Meredith Rotary has volunteered to build. He talked with their president since last report.

2010 Annual Activity Plan

Though this lengthy discussion meandered at times, and though the 2010 activity plan remains a work in progress, numerous worthy goals were identified. A few highlights:

Page Pond – write recreation management plan and create trail infrastructure

Page Pond – pursue town forest designation at 2010 Town Meeting (?), include Piscopo, Wood, etc in warrant article (?)

186 Acre Forest – name the property (!), continue work on trail infrastructure

Forest management – complete Dockham timber improvement cut, write Leighton and Eames forest management plans and possibly implement

Natural Resource Inventory – implement phase II, contract for phase III (?)
Conservation Easements for most critical town-owned conservation lands – research legal aspects and stewardship fees required by grantees

Billings encouraged the commission to use “macro” documents, particularly the recently approved Town Forest Vision Statement, to guide goal setting.

Miller provided a bit of historical perspective on the Commission’s accomplishments. When he joined the Commission approximately a decade ago, open space preservation was not even on the Commission’s radar screen. Since then, the Commission has spearheaded the acquisition of the Leighton Wildlife Area, the Eames Wildlife and Conservation Area, the two Kahn/Smyth conservation easements, the downtown 186 Acre Forest, the Longridge Farm Conservation and Preservation Easement, and Page Pond. Miller urged Commission members to think positively about our many past and ongoing endeavors.

MacFarlane will solicit additional activity plan items via e mail and revise list. The list, when finalized and approved, will be attached to the minutes of that meeting.

Town Forest Ordinance

During discussion of the activity plan, MacFarlane asked Miller to summarize Local Government Center’s response to our legal questions regarding the ordinance. In LGC’s opinion, only the Town Meeting has the authority to enact such an ordinance. The ordinance may embrace both town forests and other town-owned conservation lands which the Board of Selectmen has appointed the Conservation Commission steward of.

Correspondence

Peter Brown of Alexandria, NH has requested permission to remove a rusty auto body part from the east portion of the Old Stanton Road in Hamlin, for the purpose of making a creative sculpture. Needs gate opened to remove said vehicle part. Miller to follow up.

Forthcoming Conservation Commission Agenda Items

Oct 15 th	NRI Phase II
Nov 5 th	186 Acre Forest naming issue
Nov 19 th	2010 budget

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller, Secretary