

## Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting November 19th, 2009

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

Members attending: John Sherman, Ralph Pisapia, Peter Miller, Paula Wanzer

Alternate members attending: Dan Heyduk, Robert Davis, Mark Tuckerman

With three regular members absent, all alternate members were voting members tonight.

### Approval of Minutes

On motion of Pisapia, seconded by Davis, the minutes of November 5<sup>th</sup> were approved unanimously.

### Budget

Pisapia informed the Commission that there is upwards of \$25,000 unspent from the 2008 and 2009 operating budgets. Administrative Services Director Brenda Vittner supports the encumbering of those funds. Pisapia recommended that we request only \$1615 in new operating funds for 2010, those monies to be used for meetings and training, membership dues, contributions to regional associations, travel expenses, and office supplies.

Thus, Pisapia moved, seconded by Miller, that we ask for \$1615 in operating funds in 2010 and that we use encumbered money from prior years toward 2010 expenses. Motion passed unanimously.

### Reimbursements

On motion of Pisapia, seconded by Heyduk, the Commission unanimously approved the following reimbursements:

\$166.91	John Sherman	Boundary paint
\$ 23.80	Ralph Pisapia	Pamphlets for reference library
\$	Ralph Pisapia	98 round trip miles – NHACC meeting

### Forest Management

The Eames and Leighton town forests were given highest management priority. Sherman suggested that we contract with an ecologist to prepare wildlife management plans for these properties and that the forest management plans be subordinated to those.

Commission members concurred with this approach. The consensus was to begin with Eames, which could be joined with the Hamlin town forest in a combined wildlife management plan. Both Heyduk and Davis noted that Eames/Hamlin could be a “test case” to guide further decision making. Pisapia will follow up by contacting ecologist Phil Ellis, who spoke at the recent NHACC meeting, regarding interest, availability, and costs.

The Nedeau and Tucker Mountain town forests were given intermediate management priority, and the Hermit Woods, Piscopo, and 186 acre town forests were designated low priority.

Heyduk and Miller called attention to why the 186 acre forest should not have a timber cut in the near future. Heyduk reminded the Commission that we are having difficulty policing ATV and other unwanted intrusions from the woods roads that access the property. A timber cut could create additional means of nuisance access. Heyduk also mentioned that the trail system occupies most of the dry routes available for hauling out timber. Miller reminded the Commission that this property was subjected to a liquidation cut when the owners abandoned it, thus the property is still in a somewhat fragile state of recovery. Both Heyduk and Miller identified that there is little commercial value in the timber on the property. Noting that the 186 acre forest is likely to be the most heavily used of the Commission’s recreation/conservation areas, Miller expressed the hope that the species growing on site could be managed to enhance the beauty of the property – that aesthetics be made a priority to create a park-like effect.

The Commission’s “Vision Statement” was referenced frequently during tonight’s discussion of town forest management.

#### Natural Resource Inventory II

Discussion was deferred until the next meeting so Jacquie Colburn could be present.

#### 2010 Town Meeting Warrant Article – Page Pond

Miller moved, seconded by Davis, that designating Page Pond a town forest be placed on the 2010 Town Meeting warrant. Motion passed unanimously. The Commission will need to follow up with PR, as it did in previous years with similar warrant articles.

#### Member Comment

Heyduk noted that the 186 acre forest is getting recreational use and that we need to improve trail signage ASAP. Wanzer to scout for additional sign makers.

To get the ball rolling on the Sherman Easement, Pisapia, Miller, Billings, and Sherman will meet at MCC office this coming Monday at 1:00 PM.

Wanzer is creating a display in the library honoring the MCC’s award from the Chamber of Commerce for preserving Page Pond.

Announcements

Sherman once again is giving away Xmas greenery for wreaths and decorations, including the famous “no fail” mistletoe (smile). Pick up at his place this coming Saturday.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller  
Secretary