

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting October 15th, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman MacFarlane at 7:00 PM.

Members attending: Don MacFarlane, John Sherman, Ralph Pisapia, Peter Miller, Robert LeCount, Mark Billings

Alternate members attending: Jacquie Colburn, Robert Davis

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Pisapia, seconded by Billings, the minutes of October 1st 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:

LRGH Healthcare c/o Mitchell B. Jean U.S. Route 3 Tax Map U-02, Lot #35A	Recommend approval. Replace existing 18' culvert with 24' culvert. Repair stream bed erosion.
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Ambrose Logging Co. Inc. Pease Road Tax Map S-24, Lots # ?	Recommend approval. Construct new driveway across wetlands to access home
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Metro Health Foundation, Inc. 19 NH Route 104 Tax Map S-23, Lot #52	Recommend approval. Fill man-made wetland to construct new building. Letter requesting more information sent to DES.
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LeCount advised the Commission that the Metro Health project will impact the landscape and that Commission members might hear comments about it.

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

Joan L. Johns Old Barn Road Tax Map U-26, Lot #36	Recommend approval. Construct new home 21' from wetland. Original house was 20'6" from wetland.
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Page Pond Timber Harvest

The town has received two additional checks in the amount of \$3066.03 and \$4188.69, bringing the total received to date to \$58,372.41.

This positions the town to pay in full the Trust for Public Land loan that enabled the Page Pond purchase.

Natural Resource Inventory Phase II

Colburn initiated the discussion by asking what we wished to present to the public, how to improve the formatting and presentation, and how to improve the maps?

Billings asked if there was a capacity issue that limited how much we could load on the town's website. It was noted that the Page Pond Stewardship Plan was put on the website with no strain on capacity. Thus Billings suggested putting the whole document on line.

Davis encouraged use of PDF format.

Miller asked whether parts of the Phase II report are also contained in Phase I, and if so could the new content of Phase II be highlighted in some fashion.

Pisapia inquired as to how searchable the document will be. Colburn replied that the table of contents could be clicked on.

LeCount asked, "Who is likely to read it?" Several members noted that readership could be quite diverse.

Miller observed that there appear to be inconsistencies in the names of co-occurrence areas and some natural features.

Colburn commented that map readability can be improved and that overall readability might be improved by placing some sections, such as methodology, in the appendix.

Next steps: Review document for glitches (Pisapia, Miller, et al). Investigate need for consultant (Billings). Goal is to have document on line by January 2010.

2010 Annual Activity Plan

The Activity Plan is attached to these minutes.

Comments made on various items:

NRI Phase II – Use the report to target lands in co-occurrence areas for conservation easements.

NRI Phase III – Attend NHACC meeting in November to prospect for a new natural resource consultant. Miller suggested getting work samples done by other NH natural resource specialists. Sherman noted that we might be able to find such samples on line.

Update Prime Wetlands – What about the status of Hawkins Brook??

Page Pond & Forest – Billings supplied cost estimates for trail infrastructure. See Activity Plan.

Town Forest Easements – Miller and Billings to meet with SPNHF to gauge interest in being grantee and to inquire about stewardship donation.

Forest Management Plans – Eames and Leighton top priority for 2010.

Outreach to Schools, etc – MacFarlane to follow up. Science emphasis.

Sherman Property Easement – Miller, Pisapia, and Billings to follow up.

Smyth Easement Plaques – possibly purchase during current calendar year. Billings to make inquiry.

Forthcoming Conservation Commission Agenda Items

Nov 5 th	186 Acre Forest naming issue
Nov 19 th	2010 budget

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller, Secretary

Meredith Conservation Commission
Major Activity Plan for the Year 2010
(Updated 10/15/09)

Task/Project	Goal	Lead Group/ Member	Target Date	Projected Budget
NRI Phase II	Implement Phase II report due winter 2009 by starting outreach for land protection strategies	Jackie		\$1,000
NRI Phase III	Contract for Phase III to develop wildlife and habitat information w/ focus on conservation lands	Jackie		\$5,000
Update Prime Wetlands	Complete updates after receiving report on Prime Wetlands. Incorporate into Town ordinance.	Jackie/Community Development Dept.		-0-
Trail Maintenance	Review condition of existing trails (including signage), plan and implement needed maintenance or upgrades	Open Space/ Don/Dan	On-going	\$1,000
Page Pond & Forest	Contract for and conduct habitat management timber harvest	Open Space/Don/John	In Process	-0-
	Designate as Town Forest	MCC	Town Meeting	
	Develop trail system, map/brochure	Mark B. & John	June 1	
	Trail signage	Mark B. & John	Sept. 30	\$1,000
	Entrance signage	Peter, Mark B., John	Dec. 30	\$1,000
	Kiosk	Mark B.	Dec. 30	\$2,000
	2 bridges	Mark B.	Dec 30	\$5,000
	Recreation Plan	Mark B. & John/others	May 15	
186 Ac. Town Forest	Name the Town Forest and place new signage	Dan/Open Space		\$1,000
	Entrance signage	Peter, Dan		
	Kiosk	Dan, /?		
Town Forest Easements	Develop Conservation Easement for Town Conservation lands	Peter, John, Mark B.		-0-
Forest Management Plans	Contract for and complete forest management plans for Eames, 186 ac. Forest, Hamlin, Hermit Woods, Leighton, Nadeau, Piscopo, Tucker Mt.	Don		(\$7,500) from 2009
Dockham Town Forest	Complete habitat management timber harvest	Forester Task Force/ Don	Winter 2009-10	-0-
Ordinance for Town Forests	Develop Ordinance to govern uses of Town Forests	Open Space/John	TBA	-0-
Aquatic invasive plants	Incorporate State data on locations of aquatic exotics into the GIS data layer on invasive plants	Ralph		-0-
Outreach to School, Community Groups, or public	Host or contract for 1 interpretive nature walk in each of Hamlin/Eames, Page Pond & 186.	Paula, Don	On-going -	\$750
Media Outreach	Develop news releases on Commission activities as needed. Develop and distribute quarterly e-newsletter.	Media & Outreach Peter	Quarterly	-0-
Sherman Property Easement	Finalize conservation easement with landowner, gain BOS approval.	Ralph & Peter	Jan 15	\$1,000
Web Site	Update MCC presence on Town Web Site	Don	On-going	-0-
GIS	Update Commission GIS capabilities and map natural features on conservation lands	Don/others	On-going	-0-
Permit Application Review	Advocate for Town wetlands and other significant habitats in Town/State permit and zoning decisions	Dredge & Fill/ Bob L., Bob D., Ralph	On-going	-0-
Monitor Town Forest and Easements	Assure integrity of boundaries thru annual monitoring	Open Space/ John	On-going	-0-
2011 Budget Planning Session	Develop activity plan and proposed budget for 2011 & submit to Town Manager	Chair & Treasurer w/ input from all	Oct. 30	-0-
Volunteers & New Members	Recruit new volunteers for field and office work and seek potential alternate members	Paula/All	Completed/ On-going	-0-
	Recognition program for volunteers	Paula		
Board of Selectmen	Brief Select Board on Commission Activities	Commission Chair	4/year	-0-
Annual Town Report	Develop CC input to annual Town Report	Commission Chair	Dec. 15	-0-
Hamlin	Interpretive Brochure	Peter		-0-
	Weatherproof Yellow Trail sign	Mark B.	Oct. 1	
	Refresh red blazes	Peter	May 1	
Hamlin/Eames Map	Add Smyth Easement trail(s) to map	Don	May 1	
Hamlin kiosk	Add Smyth Easement display	Peter	May 1	
Smyth easement	Build & blaze trail	Peter/	May 1	

