

Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Meeting Oct 7th, 2010

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

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

Alternate members attending: Bob LeCount, Dan Heyduk, Sandy Mucci

Heyduk was designated a voting member this meeting.

Guest: Tony Sabutis

Approval of Minutes

Per motion of Davis, seconded by Billings, the minutes of the September 2nd meeting were approved unanimously.

Per motion of Billings, seconded by Davis, the minutes of the September 16th meeting were approved unanimously.

Dredge and Fill Report

See addendum to these minutes for list of items and related letter to ZBA.

On motion of Sherman, seconded by Billings, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the dredge and fill report.

Budget

Pisapia reported that the \$10,000 for the Spear/Snake River acquisition has been obligated.

Pisapia also noted that guidelines for 2011 budget requests will be distributed soon. Town Manager Phil Warren is asking departments to submit level funded requests. As noted during discussion, that could present a problem for the Conservation Commission, because its 2010 budget was not representative of budgets it has submitted in recent years. Due to the availability of encumbered funds from prior years, the 2010 budget was a stripped down, bare bones dollar amount not capable of meeting the Commission's annual expenses.

Reimbursements/Expenditures

Per motion of Sherman, seconded by Billings, the Commission voted unanimously to pay the following:

Peter Miller	\$57.42	Paint/supplies – Smyth Easement Trails
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Dockham Town Forest Timber Cut

MacFarlane informed members that the town has received yet another check from the timber harvest in the amount of \$170. As baseball hall of famer Yogi Berra once said, “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over.”

Eames Town Forest

Since the last meeting, MCC members have toured the Eames Town Forest with ecological consultant Peter Ellis and UNH Extension Wildlife Specialist Matt Tarr. The issue is whether to maintain part of the former clear-cut as brush habitat for wildlife benefit. Tarr’s opinion is that those woods are too grown up to be cleared by a “brontosaurus”. Thus there is a dilemma as to how to re-clear part of that acreage. One solution would be to package it with a cut of commercially valuable timber in the western part of Eames. To be discussed further at a future meeting.

Tarr was complimentary of the Eames and Hamlin Town Forests and their trails.

Smyth Easement Trails

The trails have been paint blazed and GPSed. We are waiting for the revised trail map to be produced by the town’s new GIS specialist.

To help inform the public of the existence of these new trails, the MCC will conduct a guided tour for invited newspaper reporters. Mucci to contact reporters, MacFarlane and Mucci to lead the outing.

Signage

Billings reports that volunteer Warren Clark has completed the first generation of Page Pond trail signs. Clark is now working on the additional signs needed for the Smyth Easement trails. Billings has asked sign maker Bill Becker to submit cost estimates for the large Page Pond signs. The Commission discussed sign needs at the Jenness Hill Road and Philbrook Avenue entrances to the Community Town Forest. Brown highway signs similar to those in place for Hamlin could help direct motorists and pedestrians to these entrances but are not likely to suffice by themselves.

Kiosks

Page Pond: A lot of progress has been made, but more remains to be done. Billings presented a punchlist of tasks to be accomplished and solicited help. The hope is to complete the kiosk before the public outing scheduled for Oct 30th.

Community Town Forest: With DPW's assistance, a site has been prepared for the pouring of concrete.

Community Forest Bench Dedication

This event, primarily a family gathering, is scheduled for Oct 30th. Mucci to attend on behalf of MCC.

Media

Mucci updated the Commission regarding its Facebook page. She offered to monitor the public comments being posted on it.

Open Space

The Commission is gearing up to do its annual monitoring. Sherman noted that we are stewarding 24 parcels possessing approximately 40 miles of bounds and 2438 acres.

Spear/Snake River is the newest parcel. Monitoring should be co-ordinated with New Hampton.

Easement baseline documentation remains to be completed for the Spear, Sherman, Smyth, and Kahn easements.

Spear/Snake River

MacFarlane and Miller have had communication from Waukegan Shore Owner's Association treasurer Duncan McNeish regarding bills the WSOA is still paying and other matters. McNeish is likely to attend a future MCC meeting to provide update.

Invasive Species

Pisapia noted that if the knotweed eradication at the junction of Mill St and Route 3 is successful, there will be an opportunity to do some attractive landscaping there. The Meredith Garden Club and the Greater Meredith Program were mentioned as groups that might volunteer to undertake this project.

Page Pond History

Heyduk gave a progress report on this fascinating project. He has researched deeds through 1841. No mention of the water powered sawmill through that date. Deed research to continue, followed by review of census and tax records. Heyduk also presented some info about the quarry and other manufacturing that has occurred on site.

Chairman Comment

MacFarlane informed members about upcoming conferences/workshops pertaining to stream crossing rules, biofuels, and conservation law. The annual NHACC meeting will take place the first Saturday in November.

Upcoming Events

October 30th – Page Pond – Guided outing with Belknap County Forester Andy Fast on “Conservation Timber Harvests”

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller, Secretary

<p>SD&F NHEC Bonnie Shores Rd Meredith NH 03253 Tax Map U13/15</p>	<p>Approval letter to DES Construct a 12' wide access roadway to access an existing utility pole located on upland surrounded by wet meadow/shrub wetland.</p>
<p>SD&F Rockbottom Condominium 83 Pleasant St Meredith NH 03253 Tax Map U17/18</p>	<p>Approval letter to DES Repair/replace 261.5 lineal feet of wooden apron in like kind located on 362.22' of water frontage.</p>
<p>MIEA Howard Leavitt 55 Pine Island Meredith NH 03253 Tax Map I01/1</p>	<p>Approved. Repair existing crib supported boathouse and associated docking structures "in-kind". Repair existing rock wall "in-the-dry" and "in-kind". All repairs shall be done with no change in size, location, configuration or construction type.</p>
<p>SD&F Ernest Smith 422 Bear Island Meredith NH 03253 Tax Map I12/8</p>	<p>Approved. Remove a 21'x4' permanent dock and a 24.6'x4' permanent dock. Repair/replace existing deck—new dimensions 34'x6.8'. Install a 30'x6' permanent dock and a 40'x6' seasonal dock anchored to a 6'x4' concrete pad installed behind full lake.</p>
<p>ZBA Special Exception New England Heritage Properties 88 Powers Rd Meredith NH 03253 Tax Map U37/21</p>	<p>Approved with commentary (attached). Proposed subdivision of 27 acres (seven acres of which are wetlands) into four residential lots. Request Special Exception to fill 1327 sq ft of wetlands to construct a driveway crossing and 435 sq ft to construct a walking path for lake access on Lot 2. Also requested is an encroachment into the 50 foot buffer of a non-designated wetland to construct a driveway on Lot 3.</p>

Meredith Conservation Commission

Meredith, New Hampshire 03253

To: Meredith Zoning Board of Adjustment

From: Meredith Conservation Commission

Date: September 28, 2010

Subject: Advanced Land Surveying Consultants, PLLC for New England Heritage Properties, c/o Stoneham Savings Bank, 359 Main Street, Stoneham, MA, 02100, request for Special Exceptions for a proposed 4 lot residential subdivision at 88 Powers Road, Tax Map U37, Lot 21, Meredith, New Hampshire

The applicant requests a Special Exception under Article V. Section D-9, G. 1.a. to fill 1, 327 square feet of wetland habitat to construct a driveway crossing and 435 square feet of wetland to construct a six foot wide walking path to access Lake Winnepesaukee on lot 2. The applicant also requests a Special Exception to encroach into the 50 foot buffer of a non-designated wetland on lot 3 to construct a driveway.

The Conservation Commission visited the site on September 27, 2010 after receiving and reviewing the application and site drawings with a cover letter from Mr. Carl Johnson, Jr. dated September 9, 2010.

It appears the applicant's proposed alignments as described on their plan have done a good job in minimizing impacts to Meredith's wetland resources. Therefore, the Commission believes the proposal meets the meaning of the Ordinance.

However, Zoning Board of Adjustment members should clarify the location of the planned building envelope for the residence on Lot 3. It appears from the drawings that there may be insufficient area to locate a building envelope without encroaching on a protective wetland buffer zone. Additionally, the Board should also consider whether a raised boardwalk or bridge over the wetland could replace the planned fill for the walking path to Lake Winnepesaukee to reduce wetland impacts.

We also mention that this project, when fully implemented, will continue the gradual but cumulative loss of wetland habitat and increase habitat fragmentation on Meredith Neck, both of which are detrimental to public wildlife resources. In short, larger parcels provide more benefits to wildlife than smaller parcels. Also, the on-site building activities including the removal of large portions of the forest canopy around the wetlands will negatively affect the quality of wetland habitat and the animals that are supported by this habitat type.

Wetland buffers provide a mosaic of interdependent functions. This recognizes that not all buffers provide the full complement of functions due to site specific characteristics. The five purposes of a wetland buffer in the zoning ordinance is fully described therein but in short it is to reduce the adverse effects of human activities on the wetland or

surface water by protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, and maintaining aesthetic diversity and recreational value. This is accomplished by providing hydrologic stabilization as the vegetated buffer intercepts rainfall, slows snow melt water and overland flow, promotes infiltration and protects forest canopy trees needed for the type of wetlands found on this site. This important function assures the wetland will continue to function properly while also helping to protect the water quality of nearby Lake Winnepesaukee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these recommendations to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Commission member Ralph Pisapia is available to provide clarification or answer questions you may have regarding this memorandum.

For the Commission

Robert Davis