

**Candia Conservation Commission**  
Approved  
Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2011

Present: Susan Wilderman, Dennis Lewis, Deb Levesque, Betsy Kruse, Ellie Davidson, Judi Lindsey, Dave Ickes, Pat Larkin and Rick Lazott      Guests: Boyd and Lynn Chivers

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**Guest Boyd Chivers addressed the Commission:**

In October 2010, Mr. Chivers presented to the commission a plan to create a new, small pond on his property with the intent of using it to raise bass to sell in the retail market. As part of the minor-impact application process, the DES requested that the CCC visit the site with DES to evaluate the project and give their recommendation. This was completed and submitted but now the DES is requesting additional information, one of which is a statement as to how the project conforms to section 302.04 (a) of their regulations; this includes twenty items and he is requesting help from the commission on three of these items:

1. Section 8. Describe the impact of the proposed project on public commerce, navigation or recreation: The impact would be beneficial because it would beautify and enhance the area which is adjacent to a rail bed that is often used and enjoyed by the general public for recreational activities.
2. Section 9. What is the extent to which the project interferes with the interest of the general public: It does not interfere with the interest of the general public.
3. Section 12. What is the benefit of the project to the health/safety/welfare of the general public: The general public often uses this property for hiking, snowmobiling, fishing, and swimming. Enhancement of the area will benefit the general public. The addition of creating a pond to be used for raising bass adds to the public welfare by providing local food.

This project has three components: Enhancement of the landscape that is open to enjoy by the general public; Development of aquaculture enterprise consistent with the town stated support for agricultural activities; Project serves traditional conservation objectives by treating Route 101 run-off, creating a small wetland habitat and, with the excavated soils, restoring a borrowed pit dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century to its original contours.

Mr. Chivers is requesting from the commission a written confirmation that the project satisfies this affirmation of criteria along with a statement acknowledging the public benefit of this land being open and accessible for a variety of recreational activities. He would also appreciate a statement of confidence in the Chivers stewardship practices.

A question was raised regarding concerns of the dam being breached. Mr. Chivers stated that as part of the application he received a statement from the Dam Safety Bureau that this is a non-menace dam. They examined aerial photographs and determined what the “worst case scenario” would be and classified it as a non-menace dam.

**R. Lazott motioned** to have the commission write a letter stating that they support Mr. Chivers in his effort to do this project and that the commission has no qualms with this project, seconded by B. Kruse. D. Lewis abstained, all others were in favor. Motion carried. Chair Wilderman will write a letter and deliver it to Mr. Chivers prior to the March 21<sup>st</sup> due date.

**Regular Business**

**Minutes of December 21, 2010** meeting were reviewed. **B. Kruse motioned** to accept minutes as presented, seconded by J. Lindsey. All were in favor. Motion carried. An inquiry was made regarding the mailing of meeting minutes. All were in favor of receiving electronic versions with the exception of Lazott and Levesque (until further notice).

**Conservation Land/Easement Acquisition Status -**

- Siemenski Easement: D. Lewis has invited the Siemenski family to the CCC meetings.
- Bowman: At next meeting, ask D. Snow for an update on if he has made contact with Charlie Bowman regarding his inquiry concerning a conservation easement.

**Wetlands Permit Applications – No permits were submitted**

**Land Use, Wetlands, Enforcement Issues, and Planning Board –**

- Chair Wilderman sent a letter to the Planning Board expressing the concerns of the Conservation Commission regarding the plan that was submitted for the Brown Rd. /Old Candia Rd. (parcel 413.46) subdivision. J. Lindsey will check if they received it.

- J. Lindsey reported that the Planning Board has two requests on their agenda: 1. to divide property to create a new lot on the Bowman property and 2. A lot-line adjustment on the Denoncourt/Gagne property.
- B. Kruse reported that she has sent a letter to the Planning Board requesting information on the exit 3 property regarding architectural standards (diesel) and the occupancy permit. It was noted that there is a sign on the property that they are opening on February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- J. Lindsey will follow up with the Planning Board on the following items:
  - Has there been any discussion on what to do with the Open Space Plan update?
  - Was there any decision on what the next step is for the Master Plan update and how does the Planning Board intend to conduct the next step
  - How do you incorporate new information gleaned from various studies recently conducted into the Master Plan? Applying yearly updates was suggested as a cost-effective method.

**Correspondence** –The following information was shared:

- UNH Cooperative Extension is hosting a workshop on Ecology and Identification of Shrubs and Vines on March 3, 2011 from 8:30-4:00.
- Chair Wilderman reported that she met a woman at the Deliberative Session that is very interested in conservation and plans to attend the March CCC meeting.
- *Aldo Leopold Day* is scheduled for April 1-2, 2011 in Northwood. Aldo Leopold is considered the father of wildlife ecology. More information will be available at the next meeting.
- The Heritage Commission is hosting a snowshoe walk on Sunday, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm on the Fogerty Road property.

**Budget Update/Approval of Outstanding Payments/Invoices** – Nothing new to report.

**Conservation Commission Website** – Nothing new to report.

**Lamprey River Watershed Association** – B. Kruse noted that the Lamprey River was nominated in the first public hearing to be included in the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program.

### **Old Business**

**Bear-Paw Status Report** – B. Kruse reported that Bear-Paw had a very good turnout for their annual meeting.

**Forest Management / Management Plans for Town Land** – Nothing new to report.

**Commission Properties Access Planning and Requests** – There were no request submitted.

**Open Space Plan Update Committee** – Update has been completed and submitted to the Planning Board.

**Stewardship of Properties** – S. Wilderman reported that properties continue to be inspected and suggested that one property every month be assessed. It was also suggested to invite the public on these walks.

### **Other Business:**

- The NRI is almost complete and should be received very soon. Jeff Littleton had a question regarding one map that has since been answered. Once received, arrangements will be made to present it to the Planning Board.
- S. Wilderman reported that the Deliberative Session went well and there were no questions regarding the warrant article.
- J. Lindsey reported that some students at Moore School are building Bluebird houses and asked for suggestions on the best area to place them.
- J. Lindsey reported that a student is doing research on the W.P.A. wall next to the school and asked if anyone had any information regarding this to please contact her.
- D. Lewis shared a publication, *Town and City Magazine* that contained an interesting article on clean water and the benefits of water preservation.

**E. Davidson motioned** to adjourn at 7:55 pm, seconded by D. Levesque. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Larkin, Conservation Commission Secretary