

Candia Conservation Commission  
Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
August 16, 2011

Present: Dave Ickes, Dick Snow, Dick Snow, Dennis Lewis, Betsy Kruse, Judi Lindsey, and Ellie Davidson. Susan Wilderman ~~showed up~~ arrived around 8:15. Guests: Jim DiMaggio, Chris Guida

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Betsy Kruse, Vice Chair, as Susan Wilderman (Chair) could not be there. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Guest** Chris Guida, wetland/soil scientist representing Michael Thompson of Fieldstone Land Consultants, gave a presentation on the 7 lot subdivision on Brown Road, Tax Map Parcel 413-046. He wanted to get the commission's feedback on ideas about placing a conservation easement on the land. The map showed many wetlands. There was the issue of common driveways, running through wetlands. D. Lewis commented that Brown Road has flooded, with 12-16 inches flowing over it. A green outline on the map designated the potential easement area. B. Kruse commented that there is no conservation easement value if there is no developable area, no upland area, in the proposed conservation area. An easement is to restrict development. Who would hold such an easement? D. Lewis stated that there is limited frontage – no reason for easement. Shared driveways are discouraged. Paved areas effectively divide and destroy wildlife habitats. The raised railroad bed along the boundary could possibly be promoted as an area for picnics or other human activities. Runners, walkers, bikers use this railway bed. Also noted – fluctuations in wetlands is huge during flooding times. Commission thanked C. Guida for his presentation.

**Guest** Jim DiMaggio was present, at Dick Snow's request, to speak about his willingness to help with the CCC website. Jim and Catherine Sangillo have been working on the site. Jim stated the CCC website is presently integrated on the Town website. **He suggested the following changes:**

- Website needs to be updated. Old info removed. Current info added.
- Pictures & current events link needs to be added
- FAQ section should be added, easy to link with lots of information for frequently asked questions.

Also there was discussion of keeping track of wildlife sightings, animal crossings, adding that confidentiality be maintained to protect sites. Jim would need some funding and the commission expressed great interest in having him work for them.

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes reviewed and changes made. Correct spelling of "Beecy". Add "Commission discussed options for placing some town

parcels into easement” after first sentence under Fitz property. Change “in part by CTAP” to “ARM” in Holly Green paragraph. Correct spelling of “Davidson” in 2nd to last paragraph (E. Davison offered to help with newsletter.) Minutes approved as corrected. E. Davidson motioned. D. Snow seconded. All in favor.

Conservation Land/Easement Acquisition Status: Dick passed out copies of the appraisal on the Critchett Road easement. The value of the land before the easement: \$335,000. With easement: \$220,000. Value of conservation easement: \$135,000. This process is still ongoing. When agreement is reached, Selectman Dick Snow will bring it to the Board of Selectmen to update them. D. Snow moved to authorize payment of appraisal estimate \$1500 to Martha Beecy. Seconded by D. Lewis. All in favor.

Update on Fitz properties. D. Snow has walked the land. He is working on possible purchase with conservation easement including town land in the Kinnicum Pond area and a piece on Donovan Road along the railway bed, which parallels Baker Road. D. Snow seeking ARM grant funding. SE Land Trust and others interested in holding the CE. ARM grant – government holds easement, owners transfer to another entity.

Wetlands Permit Applications: E. Davidson reported 2 items – Wetland on Healey Road approved and copy of letter informing **Doucettes** of approval. Also our letter of concern noted in email. Letter received that state wants to perform routine replacement of culvert on Route 27 (state road). DES notice of B. Chivers’ work approved.

Land Use/Wetlands/Enforcement Issues/Planning Board: J. Lindsey reported about continuing discussion at last planning board meeting about Cell Tower on North Road, near Halls Mill Road.

Correspondence: **Speaking for Wildlife** pamphlet shared. Volunteers needed for training/workshop.

Budget Update/Approval of outstanding payments/invoices: D. Snow handed out copies of the budget. He stated he had contacted Pat Larkin, former secretary, and she said she did not want reimbursement. It was suggested we need to set aside money for CCC Website support. It was noted our budget has been decreasing every year. Money that goes into Forest Management fund can only be used on our town forests. (Ex. Signage). Discussion ~~enthused~~ **ensued?** about how much to propose in our budget, keeping in mind these hard economic times. Level funding suggested as that is what all town budgets are being held to. Ours is presently at \$2,400.

Conservation Commission Website: Discussion earlier in meeting about getting assistance from Jim DiMaggio. \$250. Available.

Lamprey River Watershed Association: Need to change this category heading to: **Lamprey River Water Quality Issues.** D. Snow reported that 'water quality' is the biggest concern. There is a lot of reorganization happening – federally and statewide with funding ties and priorities. For example, there is DES and the Fluvial Erosion Study on the Lamprey River. Jack Munn may be speaking on this issue. D. Snow also stressed the importance of people being able to identify such invasives as the Japanese Knotweed plant that can be spread through streams. This item of information could be located on our website as well.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Bear Paw Status: August 20th Dragonfly Workshop. Annual speaker for January 2012 will be speaking on moose.

Forest Management/Management Plans for Town Land: D. Lewis reported that the landing and access road have been completed on Hemlock Drive. In the future a letter to abutters should go out to notify them of future logging or other commission activity as there has been much speculation and concern about what all the activity (truckloads of dirt hauled in, etc.) could mean to the neighborhood residents. Logging is to start Oct./Nov. Signed "Intent to Cut" noticed received. Timber harvest worth about \$12-15,000.

Commission Properties Access Planning and Request: Eagle Scout Andy Mun's project of a ~~footbridge~~ trail work on the Deerfield Road property is coming along.

Stewardship of Properties: ***I think this was left off entirely!!*** I believe it was to be a new heading.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Newsletter – Discussion about the newsletter took place.
2. Public Event – Tuesday, November 15th. Commissioner Bill Nichols to speak about 'Habitats'. This talk will take place at our regularly scheduled meeting, with 1st part devoted to talk, followed by a brief meeting afterwards.
3. Our NRI needs to be sent back to Jeff Littleton so he can redo the maps, make a CD, etc. E. Davidson volunteered to mail it out.
4. J. Lindsey shared her idea to lead a guided hike on the Deerfield Road Town Forest on Sunday, October 9, 2011 for the town of Candia. She showed a rough draft of the flyer she intends to send out and asked for feedback.
5. E. Davidson asked if certain members had been sworn in yet at the Town Hall. Members in question: S. Wilderman, B. Nichols, D. Ickes, and D. Lewis.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Lindsey, acting secretary for the evening.