

Candia Conservation Commission
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Oct. 18, 2011

Present: Dave Ickes, Dick Snow, Deb Levesque, Dennis Lewis, Betsy Kruse, Judi Lindsey, Ellie Davidson, Rick Lazott.
Guests: Greg Jones, Amy Kizak (SNHPC), Andy Mun, Dwayne Critchett, James DiMaggio, Bille and Mark Peppers

REGULAR BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Betsy Kruse, Vice Chair presided for the evening. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Amy Kizak from SNHPC was allowed to go first and speak about the progress made on the Open Space Plan. The maps have been updated as well as Appendix B – Technical documents. Sections 3 & 4 were removed. (This section was a list of properties, specifying particular parcels.) The purpose of this Open Space Plan is to connect large sections of land to maintain a healthy, functional ecosystem. It is flexible plan, to be used as a guide to keep the environment whole and viable.

The Open Space Plan needs to be presented to the Board of Selectmen as the next step in the process. Jack Munn will be notified. Plans will be to bring it to the Nov. 2, 2011 selectmen meeting.

E. Davidson made the motion and J. Lindsey seconded it – To authorize Betsy Kruse to forward the Open space Plan to the Planning board with those changes agreed upon and to be part of the plan by the SN Planning Commission and the Candia conservation Commission. All were in favor.

J. Lindsey made the motion, and it was seconded by D. Lewis. - “I make a motion to commend Eagle Scout Andy Mun on his project on the Deerfield Road Town Forest.”

Next, Billie and Mark Peppers spoke to the commission on their desire to put a conservation easement on their 60 acre lot, located on 345 Critchett Road. Dwayne Critchett was also present to see if the CCC would support the purchase of a conservation easement on his property which abuts the Peppers. Lots 407-27-2 and 407-54. Discussion took place. R. Lazott asked if 4 wheelers would be allowed. No. Snowmobiles? Yes. Hunting? Yes. D. Snow spoke and would like to vote to support the process. B. Kruse expressed interest in settling other projects/issues before bringing this to the selectmen. D. Lewis asked if they were aware of the easement process, appraisal procedure, etc. D. Snow felt sooner rather than later would be better and to bring these projects as a group to the selectmen. If we wait, we can't move forward. R. Lazott proposed the idea of hosting a joint meeting with the CCC and the Board of Selectmen. B. Kruse felt it might be better to wait, and finish the Critchett easement first. D.Critchett said it may be throwing too much at once to the selectmen and it could be tough. D. Snow asked if there were any objections to going before the next select board meeting, bringing D. Critchett and the Peppers together. He asked for a firm motion to move forward. D. Lewis: Felt the Select board would probably like to see an appraisal and no Bear Paw involvement. View the terms. Motion was made by E. Davidson, second by D. Lewis to proceed on Mr. and Mrs. Peppers' application. Vote taken – all in favor. E. Davidson asked if the Peppers and Critchetts could attend the board of selectmen meeting together, along with as many CCC members as possible for support. The next Board of Selectmen meeting is Monday, October 24th which may be too soon to get on the agenda. Perhaps November 7th would be more feasible. B. Kruse will contact to see if they can be put on the agenda.

Greg Jones was present and is applying for the CCC secretarial position. He has been an intern at SNHPC, and graduated from Keene State. (His letter of interest/qualifications is on file) Question was raised if there were any restrictions by hiring someone out of state, as G. Jones lives in South Berwick, Maine. No objections were noted.

Other town workers do not live in Candia. D. Ickes made motion to recommend and D. Levesque seconded, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen Greg Jones as our CCC clerk for \$12. an hour dependent on the Selectmen's approval. All were in favor. G. Jones had several questions for the commission.

- Do you tape your meetings? R. Lazott asked if there was money in our account to purchase a recorder.
- Would he be allowed to work at home, transcribing the minutes, emailing information, etc? Yes.
- Could a roll call be taken at the beginning of the meeting? Yes.

Minutes of previous meeting: "Enthused" needed to be changed to "ensued".

Motion made by D. Levesque and seconded by D. Lewis to approve the minutes as corrected. All in favor.

Conservation Land/Easement Acquisition Status: Discussion about the DES Grant took place. Could Consecration easements be put on all town parcels? Would that require selectmen approval? D. Lewis felt it was OK to use the grant money for the Fitz property, but town properties would require a town meeting vote. D. Snow said we want the town to vote on the properties. B. Kruse felt as a town citizen she supports the concept (pending town approval to put easements on town parcels.) D. Snow felt this was an opportunity to take care of all the town properties and appraisals all at no cost to town. He asked if we wanted to get this grant approved. E. Davidson and J. Lindsey said they liked and supported the idea as the money was available through this grant. This was an opportunity to protect water with funds specifically allocated for this purpose. D. Levesque felt like it was being hurried with this deadline. E. Davidson asked that if it was approved, was it contingent on a town vote? D. Lewis: 7 properties. Preferred to go to town meeting with one parcel at a time. Short window to decide. D. Ickes asked who is filing the petition for the grant? Would it be a citizen's petition warrant article? J. Lindsey motioned and E. Davidson seconded "To have the CCC move to support, if the grant is approved, Dick Snow's concept of the DES Grant application pending a town meeting." Vote was taken. 3 were for, 2 against and 1 abstention. Motion carried.

Wetlands Permit Applications: none.

Land Use/Wetlands/Enforcement Issues/Planning Board Subdivision on Brown Road came before the Planning Board again with no real changes. There are still many wetland crossings, shared driveways, long driveways not originating on the lots, building in flood prone zones, etc.

Correspondence NHACC conference. E. Davidson and D. Snow expressed interest in attending. Forestry work on the Doucette property has begun.

Budget Update/Approval of outstanding payments/invoices: Presently \$650,000 in the CCC account with \$450,000 available and unencumbered.

Conservation Commission Website Jim DiMaggio was present and asked if there was anything in particular the Commission would like to see added to the website. J. Lindsey's guided walk on the town forest could be added under property photos, etc. and other event information as well.

Lamprey River Watershed Association Special Celebration of the Lamprey River Watershed on Thursday, Oct. 27th at Nottingham Town Hall. Supper included and speaker Bill Nichols will talk on "Natural Communities of NH".

OLD BUSINESS

Bear Paw Status: Newsletter just published and available. Recent successful celebration of Evans Mountain with over 1,000 acres protected. Annual Meeting January 2012

Forest Management/Management Plans for Town Land: Charlie Moreno will begin the forest management project on Hemlock Drive in November. Although D. Snow was hoping to be able to have a public walk on the property to educate people about the forestry project, it was not possible at this time. However, he is hoping to go with abutters before the cut so they can see the forest before and after a carefully managed logging job. Perhaps a winter presentation could be done after the fact.

Commission Properties Access Planning and Request: Nothing at this time.

Stewardship of Properties: Was this cut off the last agenda?

OTHER BUSINESS:

Newsletter tabled

Public Event next month – speaker Bill Nichols at our next CCC meeting. B. Kruse passed around posters of the event for members to post around town.

Election of new chair. It was brought up that expectations of the chair position should be clear. There are presently no chair policies or procedures. The idea was brought up of the possibility of co-chairs. Also R. Lazott brought up the idea of revolving chairs. Members were encouraged to consider these and other options carefully and be ready to discuss them at the next meeting. J. Lindsey will contact Susan Wilderman to see if she will reconsider a co-chair position.

D. Ickes motioned to adjourn. E. Davidson seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07.

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