



Town of Candia
Conservation Commission
74 High Street
Candia, New Hampshire
03034

June 19, 2012 Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Present: Ellie Davidson, Dave Ickes, Betsy Kruse, Deb Levesque, Dennis Lewis, Mimi Alberu (Alt), Dick Snow (Alt.).

Guests: Donna DelRosso, Ken Hoffman, Dan Kern (Bear Paw Regional Greenways), Mike Pouliot.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Betsy Kruse, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regular Business

1. Guests present were invited to speak before the Commission discussed the evening's agenda. First was Donna DelRosso, owner of 62 acres on Critchett Road (Map 406, Lot 128). The property has a deeded right-of-way through the Davidson property. The DelRosso acres are a wildlife corridor, and have a small brook feeding into the Lamprey River. There are trails that are currently used by the public. She had questions regarding the process of obtaining a conservation easement. Betsy Kruse and Dick Snow explained some of the basic preliminary steps and types of easements. (A donated easement can have any number of restrictions; use of public funding usually requires public access; IRS rules require the landowner to pay appraisal and survey costs, legal fees, and a one-time escrowed fee for annual monitoring by a land trust.) Guest Dan Kern added that typical transaction costs total about \$10K. Ms. DelRosso will need to choose a land trust to work with.

Next was Ken Hoffman, owner of 41 acres on North Road with minimal road frontage (Map 402, Lot 36), close to Bear Brook. There are hiking trails and a beaver pond; Podunk Road crosses the pond. Mr. Hoffman noted that the transaction costs could be prohibitive. Dan Kern mentioned a summary appraisal as a possible option, usually costing under \$1K. Dick Snow explained how development rights are calculated, and mentioned that a landowner has the option to open a discussion directly with a land trust.

2. Minutes of previous meetings (May 15, 2012) – minutes were approved as amended. Corrections were the date on the document footer and the omission of Betsy Kruse on the attendees list. Dick Snow moved to approve, with Deb Levesque as second. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Conservation Land/Easements Acquisition Status – The P&S Agreement for the Pepper project was signed by the Board of Selectmen. The subdivision for the Critchett project needs to be completed before the P&S Agreement is signed by the BOS. There will be a public hearing at the next meeting of the CCC on July 17, followed by a Commission vote to accept the projects. Closing on both is expected by July 20. Dick Snow will send out a public notice for the hearing on the 17th. Betsy Kruse noted that the easement language makes reference to the 2001 Open Space Plan. Language should be changed to read “current Open Space Plan.”

ARM/WRP grant possibilities – received response on ARM, waiting for response on WRP eligibility.

4. Wetlands Permit Applications – No applications at this time.
5. Land Use/Wetlands/Enforcement Issues/Planning Board – Dick Snow presented pricing for map racks from Staples; Mike Pouliot distributed pricing from WB Mason. He noted that the Town has an existing account with WB Mason and their prices are lower. He gave Dick Snow the name of the sales rep managing the Town’s account.
6. Correspondence – Betsy Kruse mentioned e-mail correspondence from Lucie Lepine with New Hampshire EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), requesting permission to sample tree canopy foliage at the Deerfield Road Town Forest. An area of focus for the project is the greater Lamprey River watershed with the goal of examining the impact of land use, population growth and climate on New Hampshire's ecosystems. The consensus of the Commission was that the proposal would be no problem.
7. Budget Update/Approval of outstanding payments/invoices – Dick Snow requested motions to pay \$48 to Mimi Alberu for administrative support in May; moved by Deb Levesque, seconded by Ellie Davidson, passed unanimously.
8. Conservation Commission Website – no action at this time.
9. Lamprey River Water Quality Initiatives – Ellie Davidson could not attend the conference in Raymond on June 1st. Dick Snow attended and reported that the presentation on the new Lamprey River 100-year flood plan was most informative.

Old Business

10. Bear-Paw Status Report – Betsy Kruse noted that there will be a wildlife walk this month. Dan Kern, Executive Director of Bear Paw Regional Greenways explained that the encroachment at the Clay Pond property consists of a private landowner’s fence at the edge of the property. He requested that a CCC member be present the next time it is monitored. He also distributed landowner outreach maps for areas of interest to Bear Paw for potential conservation. Lastly he requested a letter of support in their effort to obtain grants to update natural resource maps created in 2003. Betsy will draft a letter to be signed by Co-Chair Deb Levesque.
11. Forest Management / Plans for Town Land / Stewardship – Dennis Lewis reported that of the three proposed dates Charlie Moreno is only available on 6/28. He would charge \$150 to lead the walk at the Hemlock Town Forest. Dennis explained that the focus would be to talk about management practices. He will confirm with Charlie and Mimi Alberu will distribute PR about the walk.

Other Business

12. Amphibian crossing signs – purchasing signs may be cost prohibitive. Other towns have hand-written signs, probably done by volunteers. It was suggested to solicit potential sites on the CCC Web site.
13. Upper Lamprey Scenic Byway – The next meeting will take place June 27th. An intern from the Southern NH Planning Commission is proposing Candia's inclusion on the route for approval at the next BOS meeting on June 25th.

Ellie Davidson moved to adjourn at 9:02 pm, seconded by Dennis Lewis. Motion passed unanimously. Next meeting of the CCC is on July 17, 2012 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Alberu
Candia Conservation Commission Clerk