

# MADISON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

February 2, 2012

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Ralph Lutjen, Marcia McKenna (7:12), Marc Ohlson, David Riss – Chair, and Josh Shackford

Members Not Present: none

Others Present: Robbin Rancourt

Meeting Agenda Posted: 1/25/12 at Madison Town Hall, Madison Post Office, and Silver Lake Post Office

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Riss called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Ohlson moved, seconded by Mr. Lutjen, to approve the minutes of January 5, 2012 as presented. Motion passed.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:** none

**4. OLD BUSINESS & CONTINUING PROJECTS:**

Goodwin & Burke Forests – TNC contract for 2012/2014/2016 burn with Jeff Lougee: Mr. Lougee responded that he would attend the April meeting to discuss the contract, burn schedule, and burn management plan. A letter was sent to Mr. Liljiedahl inviting him as well. Ms. Croteau will confirm with Mr. Liljiedahl to attend the April meeting.

Goodwin & Burke Forests – trail access: Work will take place in the spring.

Malcolm P. McNair Easement – trail connector: The trail pictures were resent to the conservation email. Dr. Riss will re-send the narrative. Ms. Croteau will discuss the project submission to DES with Ms. Huff.

Wold Maintenance – wildlife clearings and trail clean-up: No action at this time; this item will remain on the agenda as a reminder to schedule the work. Trails will be walked in the spring for maintenance. Mr. Rancourt reports that one of the clear cuts is regenerating.

Landing Area Logging – Wendy Scribner of UNH Coop will attend the March meeting to present information on regenerating landing areas. Ms. Scribner's information will help give input on creating the logging area fact sheet for homeowners.

Other business: The Board of Selectmen voted 2 to 1 to appoint the Conservation Commission as managers of the Burke, Lyman, and Currier properties. The Commission unofficially managed the properties prior to the appointment. With the upcoming Warrant Article there is general concern about spending money. A discussion followed where it was noted that unforeseen costs aside the Commission does not spend much money when managing conservation properties. The management plans of the different properties were completed between 17 and 25 years ago and additional management plans are not needed. Recreation and maintenance is very low cost and usually completed by volunteer hours. Forestry on the Currier and Burke properties brought in a sale that covered costs and added revenue to the town. Future activity on the properties could include a small timber sale on the Goodwin property that would bring in money to the town. There are no plans to incur costs to the town by managing these properties. General discussion followed relative to the purpose of continuing to fund conservation reserve funds.

**5. TOWN CONSERVATION LANDS- Monitoring Procedures discussion:** The Conservation Commission managed properties list was reviewed. Commission members will inspect the five properties (Cascades, Hurricane Point, McNair I, McNair II, Stuart Mudd ‘Cedar Swamp’, and Wold) that require annual inspection. Dr. Riss will edit the monitoring inspection checklist. Assignments will be made at March meeting.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Tom D’Amato sent an email to the town inquiring whether part of the Hurricane Point conservation property could be sold. Melissa Arias, Town Administrator, responded quickly by sending Mr. D’Amato a copy of the deed, which states that the property could not be sold or used outside of the prescribed uses in the deed. Commission members felt that the correspondence was appropriately addressed and no further action needed to be taken.

**7. SELECTMAN’S REPORT:** Mr. Shackford reminded the Commission to be prepared for the budget at Town Meeting.

**8. PLANNING BOARD REPORT:** Mr. Ohlson reported on the previous night’s meeting. The Elaine Conners Wildlife Center presented a site plan for a 28x48 building to be used for conference/education purposes. The applicant is also appearing before the ZBA for a special exception. The application will continue at the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7 P.M.

**9. BOULDER COMMISSION REPORT:** The Boulder Commission is waiting on action at Town Meeting.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE:** A discussion ensued about making funds available to land owners to cover the costs in giving easements to the Town. It was suggested that the Commission might want to reach out to property owners and find additional ways to relay the message that there may be funds available for creating easements with the Town.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Dr. Riss moved, seconded by Ms. McKenna, to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 P.M. Motion passed.

The next Regular Meeting is March 1, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Croteau  
Land Use Board Administrator  
Minutes Approved: not yet approved  
Corrections: