

MADISON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

January 5, 2012

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Ralph Lutjen, Marcia McKenna (7:06), Marc Ohlson, David Riss – Chair, and Josh Shackford

Members Not Present: none

Others Present: Wendy Huff – Administrative Assistant, Ted Slader

Meeting Agenda Posted: 12/28/11 at Madison Town Hall, Madison Post Office, and Silver Lake Post Office

1. CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Riss called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Ohlson moved, seconded by Mr. Shackford, to approve the minutes of December 1, 2011 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 emailed confirming that the burn would be postponed to the potential date of fall 2013 or later. Dr. Riss composed a draft letter to Mr. Liljedahl at NRCS asking that the contract be extended to initiate the burn in 2013 or 2014 as advised by Jeff Lougee at TNC. Ms. Croteau will invite Mr. Liljedahl and Mr. Lougee to the March or April meeting to discuss the contract, burn schedule, and possible burn management plan.

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

Malcolm P. McNair Easement – trail connector: The trail pictures were lost in the email shuffle to the new email server. If they cannot be recovered, the pictures will be re-sent.

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.

Old Home Week Events: The Squam Lakes Science Center animal program is booked for 2012 Old Home Week. The Board indicated they would prefer the ‘Animals with Bad Reputations’ program. Ms. Croteau will confirm with the Center.

Landing Area Logging – Dr. Riss provided an informational fact sheet for landowners that could be included with intent to cut permits. Mr. Shackford spoke with Wendy Scribner of UNH Coop and has invited her to the February meeting. She provided the NH Fish and Game small grants application for private lands habitat conservation. General discussion followed about the possibility of applying for the grant for managed properties.

Other business: General discussion ensued concerning the management plans for the three properties on the Warrant article to be officially named as Town Forests. Ms. Huff will confirm that everything is in order to assign the Commission as managers of the other properties in questions. Ms. Croteau will provide the management plans for the Town Forests in the packet for next month’s meeting.

5. TOWN CONSERVATION LANDS- Monitoring Procedures discussion: There is no requirement that managed properties receive an annual inspection, although easements must be monitored annually. A list of properties that need to be monitored will be compiled. Ms. Huff

suggested that properties are assigned to Commission members in April and reports due in September. This item will be put on the agenda for next month's meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS: none

7. SELECTMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Shackford reported that budget work is ongoing. Dr. Riss initiated a discussion about the \$5000 budget item for the capital reserve. Members expressed the following: the budget is less than it was last year; the Commission has historically been responsible with their budget; the Commission will need to continue funding the capital reserve if it wants to be able to buy properties that will benefit the town; and the budget item should be included so the town can decide. There was general consensus that the item is supported by the Commission members and will stand in the proposed budget.

8. PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Mr. Ohlson reported on the previous night's meeting. The zoning amendments were approved. There was a preliminary hearing on the Elaine Conner's Wildlife Center educational building. The Board approved the Master Plan amendments for scenic views and steep slopes protection after a public hearing including a half dozen members of the public.

9. BOULDER COMMISSION REPORT: none

10. CORRESPONDENCE: Attorney Bernie Waugh sent the 2011 summary of updated statutes and case law relative to municipalities. Ms. Croteau will invite the Commission to the ZBA meeting when Attorney Waugh is scheduled. Ms. Huff made the Commission aware of several legislation items that would affect NH Conservation Commissions. The 2012 meeting dates were provided. Mr. Shackford announced that he has been nominated for the Carroll County position on the Fish and Game Commission. Ms. McKenna moved, seconded by Mr. Ohlson, to send a letter of support from the Commission on behalf of Mr. Shackford. Motion passed.

Wendy Huff was recognized for all her work for the Commission. The Commission wishes her well after this last meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mr. Ohlson moved, seconded by Mr. Lutjen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 P.M. Motion passed.

The next Regular Meeting is February 2, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Croteau
Administrative Assistant
Minutes Approved: February 2, 2012
Corrections: none