

MADISON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

July 7, 2011

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Marcia McKenna, Marc Ohlson, and David Riss – Chair

Members Not Present: Ralph Lutjen and Josh Shackford

Others Present: Robbin Rancourt and Ted Slader

Meeting Agenda Posted: 06/29/11 at Madison Town Hall, Madison Post Office, and Silver Lake Post Office

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Riss called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Ohlson moved, seconded by Ms. McKenna, to approve the minutes of June 2, 2011 as presented. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

OLD BUSINESS & CONTINUING PROJECTS:

Malcolm P. McNair Easement: A final determination from DES is still pending. Dr. Riss provided quotes for lumber for the boardwalk over the wetlands from Silver Lake Hardware and Lowes. Although a little higher, it was agreed that the purchase would be through Silver Lake Hardware.

McNair Easement #2 – Inspection Report: Dr. Riss and Mr. Ohlson reported that some logging had occurred and that the main trail to Bald Ledge is growing in and not as accessible as it used to be. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Mr. McNair with a summary of the inspection and a reminder that the Commission is always available to discuss further conservation easements. Mr. Ohlson noted that he had received a call from Bob King suggesting that the Commission consider purchasing the former Bourne property which will be auctioned off. Mr. Ohlson and Mr. Rancourt agreed that the timber is not valuable and the land does not meet the Commission's criteria.

Conservation Property Status: It appears that the Selectmen may be pursuing a warrant article to place the lands in question into Town Forest status with the Commission as managers. This will be confirmed.

Wold Maintenance – wildlife clearings and trail clean-up: The trail has been completed. Mr. Rancourt will continue to maintain the wildlife clearings.

Goodwin & Burke Forests – update; TNC contract for 2012/2014/2016 burn: Jeff Lougee, the Nature Conservancy, will attend the September meeting to review the burn contract.

Old Home Week Activities: The Sunday evening talk was confirmed and the Durgin Pond walk will take place pending DES approval of the boardwalk.

TOWN CONSERVATION REPORT: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Green Mountain Conservation Group – Water Testing Report: Dr. Riss briefly reviewed the report which was more of a general overview of water quality in the watershed area. He will request the details of the Madison testing for review at the September meeting.

Shoreland Application – Leary: The lot is within the 250' Shoreland area in the VDOE. The Commission had no concerns.

Minimum Impact Expedited Application – Tin Mountain Conservation Center: The application is for stream restoration to enhance native brook trout population in Frost Brook. The Commission felt the project was worthwhile and authorized Dr. Riss to sign the application.

Ms. McKenna questioned the impact of subdividing the Cooper lot. Mr. Ohlson explained that the impact is minimal and the Planning Board had no concerns.

Ms. McKenna initiated discussion relative to the use of snowmobiles on trails near Cooks Pond when there is little or no snow. She expressed concern regarding the damage to exposed tree roots. It was agreed that the Selectmen should be apprised of this situation and the lack of response by the Scrub Oak Scramblers to concerns over the poor condition of bridges on the trails.

Dr. Riss suggested creating an alternative access route to the Goodwin trails to increase recreational access rather than the existing access which is also used as the Veilleux's driveway. He felt the existing access is not inviting to foot traffic. Mr. Rancourt stated that the right-of-way was intended to be used for logging and emergency access only. After discussion of potential sites, the Commission requested that Mr. Rancourt provide a plan and an estimate to create a trail access and a small parking area.

Mr. Rancourt advised that the landing at East Shore Drive was in need of brush sawing. Ms. McKenna moved, seconded by Mr. Ohlson, to authorize the use of the Forest Account for brush sawing the East Shore Drive landing area. Motion passed.

SELECTMAN'S REPORT: none

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Mr. Ohlson reported that a three lot subdivision on Deer Hill Road was approved. A site plan was reviewed and continued to the August meeting. A boundary line adjustment and a condominium conversion / subdivision were approved.

BOULDER COMMISSION REPORT: Leon Gerry met with the Board of Selectmen. He feels the Boulder Road has reverted to the Gerrys and that they intend to transfer ownership to the state as long as a gate is not installed. The Selectmen will meet with Mr. Gerry and representatives from the Department of Resource and Economic Development at their next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Commission was in agreement that they would like to continue to request \$5,000 for the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mr. Ohlson moved, seconded by Ms. McKenna, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 P.M. Motion passed.

The next Regular Meeting is August 4, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy J. Huff
Administrative Assistant
Minutes Approved: August 8, 2011
Corrections: none