

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2013**

Present: Tom Duston, Chairman; Kathy Thatcher, Pam Walton, Lynne Borofsky, Jeff Newcomer, Jon, McKeon, Selectboard Representative and Steve Hardy (arrived at 7:05 PM) and Amy LaFontaine..

1). Tom called the public hearing to order at 7:04 PM. At the last meeting, the Commission moved to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the expenditure of \$17,000 from the Conservation Fund toward the permanent protection from development of 175 acres of land in Chesterfield, part of a larger tract totalling 688 acres with the additional land being in Keene and Swanzey. The Monadnock Conservancy will be the primary lienholder. Ruth Van Houten questioned the reduction in funding by the Swanzey Conservation Commission. Ann McBride reported that the \$4,500 in Swanzey was money the Swanzey Conservation Commission wanted to contribute to the project. The difference will be coming from the Open Space Commission. The Conservancy will be receiving the \$22,500 they requested. Funding for the project is broken down as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|------|-----------|
| Swanzey | \$22,500 | 6% | 230 Acres |
| Keene | \$26,500 | 7% | 264 Acres |
| Chesterfield | \$17,000 | 4.5% | 175 Acres |

There is about \$89,000 in the Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund is funded by a portion of the revenue collected from the Land Use Change Taxes. In 1999 the contributions were changed to 100% of the tax paid to the Town goes to the Conservation Fund up to \$25,000 per year. The total project is \$371,200 broken down as follows:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| \$276,000 | Cost of Easement |
| \$ 32,678 | Direct Project Expenses |
| \$ 20,240 | Conservancy Staff Time |
| \$ 9,285 | Fundraising |
| \$ 22,500 | Endowments for 3 easements |
| \$ 11,097 | Overhead |

Some of the additional funding will come from grants. The Monadnock Conservancy recently applied for LCHIP funding. There was a discussion about logging and forever wild. John Caveney stated that he does not agree with the Forever Wild stipulation on the 39 acre parcel and wondered about the easement eliminating hunting & fishing on the parcel. It is mandated that hunting & fishing be allowed with LCHIP contributions. Bob Borofsky was present to express support for the project. Tom read an e-mail from Madeline Jeffries also supporting the project. The Town of Chesterfield is 25 – 30% protected. Ruth asked for waterways of Spofford Lake and CT River to be counted in the protection coverage. There are 4 to 5 pending developments in Town. Ryan Owens stated that logging provides benefits to the Town over and above the financial. Timber cuts employ loggers & truck drivers as well as diversifying wildlife habitat and supplying wood for buildings. Tom declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:40 PM.

2). Communication – The Commission discussed how e-mail communication should be handled. All e-mails should be brought up under correspondence. No decisions can be made outside of meetings.

- 3). Permits, Complaints, etc. – Chris & Sara Oot #2013-02203 Shoreland Permit approved with Condition.
- 4). Minutes – Pam moved to approve August 26th as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynne and passed unanimously.
- 5). Grants, Events – Lynne has found Rick Contino from Brattleboro to work on the kiosks. The Commission purchased the shingles from Perkins. The Town and State of NH supplied the paint. Lynne is working on getting the materials for the Madame Sherri kiosk.
- 6). Spofford Lake Report – Pam reported that Aquatic Control Technology did not find any exotic weeds this year. They were accompanied by Val Starbuck and Ken King. The lake level is at 19 inches. The winter level is 30 inches.
- 7). Website – Jeff reported that the website has been viewed by members and posted on.
- 8). Tools – Steve reported that the tools are ready to use. Kathy asked about Potato Hooks? They are useful for clearing culverts. The Commission does not have any. Some can be purchased in January.
- 9). Trail Development & Projects – The Oak tree in Friedsam is the largest in the county. It is very easy to get to. It is between 300 and 325 years old.
 - B). Tom presented the Audrey’s Meander signs completed by Will Parmalee.
 - C). Tom proposed trail work on the Indian Pond to Wantastiquet trail on November 9th. No one has adopted the trail.
- 10). Selectboard Report –
 - A). The Route 63 project will be done in 2 phases beginning Spring 2014.
 - B). The Master Plan Committee is seeking volunteers.
- 11). Public Comment – John Caveney reported that the Conservancy has \$8,634 balance for protection of land in & adjacent to the Town. The Commission will take it under advisement.
- 12). Other - Bob Brockmann reported that the 1st part of the tree planting is complete. The Commission has received the bill and will submit it for payment ASAP.
- 13). Adjournment – The next meeting will be December 9th. Steve Hardy will be the Chair. Jeff moved to adjourn at 8:35 PM. The motion was seconded by Pam and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy LaFontaine
Secretary

Approved:

Tom Duston

Date:_____