

### Meeting Minutes

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Karen Ayers called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Present were Karen Ayers (CC Chair), Marietta Garavaglia (CC Administrative Assistant), regular members Tracy Healey-Beattie, David Gandt, Nancy Roka, Greg Smart, alternate member Larry Smith, Selectmen's Representative Shawn Hanson and Theresa Walker from the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC). Also attending (for a portion of the meeting) were local students Angela Spoto and Tom Alston. Regular member Robert Wiener was absent. Larry Smith was designated a voting member for the meeting.

**2. Review and Approve Minutes:** in light of time considerations, the August and September minutes will be reviewed at the November meeting.

**3. Dilmore Easement & Matrix Application:** K. Ayers has exchanged e-mails with Steve Hundley of the FRPP and is expecting dates on which he is available to walk the land; her understanding is that the property will be able to qualify and S. Hundley will delineate what needs to be cleared. Per T. Walker, the NRCS has just been reorganized and Karen should contact Steve's replacement; Theresa feels the Dilmore property would qualify for the 2008 Local Source Water Protection Grant inasmuch as it falls within Seabrook's rock well area. The Grant provides up to \$20,000 of (not for purchase) funds which can be used for surveys, appraisals etc.; the application deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>, and Theresa will initiate work on this application.

**4. Marsh Lane Preserve Extension Survey:** the property has been flagged and the neighbors are asking that flags be removed from one line for aesthetic purposes. Furthermore:

- D. Gandt and L. Smith will designate the line with rocks or boulders (if available) so that the flags can be removed.
- K. Ayers recommends that the Commission vegetate the property line in the spring; she has plantings which can be used for this purpose.
- The Commission should consider designating the Extension with a sign similar to that produced for the Tonry easement; monies could be sourced through the NH Trails Bureau Grant (per Theresa) with an application deadline of January, 2008.
- D. Gandt spoke with his contact at Timberland and suggested that the Commission schedule an event with them—perhaps on Earth Day—in which they would partner with us in clearing the parking area, cutting trails etc.

T. Healey-Beattie introduced Angela Spoto and Tom Alston. As part of a school project, Angela is studying the differences in conservation initiatives and practices between Seabrook and Hampton Falls.

**5. T. Walker** shared a **map** with the Commission **from the Natural Services Network** which was produced initially in response to the I-93 widening. The map looks at those resources which provide human services and illustrates the human ecosystems in Town. Theresa also distributed several copies of the Newmarket **Open Space Conservation Plan** and asked whether this was something the Commission would like to pursue. The plan would utilize our natural resources data and capture it in one document; the Commission would be required to vet the information and generate recommendations. Based on this discussion D. Gandt made a motion that Theresa Walker work on writing an Open Space Conservation Plan for the Town. The motion was seconded by N. Roka and passed unanimously.

**6. Prime Wetlands Subcommittee Update:** Mark West will present the PW program to the Planning Board at their October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting; the goal is to schedule a public hearing for the following PB meeting (November 27<sup>th</sup>). M. Garavaglia expressed concern over availability of a proposed ordinance which would be acceptable to

the Board at this first meeting. T. Walker suggested that Marietta have the Town's circuit rider, Dylan Smith, review those from Exeter and Newington as possible templates for the Town. Additionally:

- Dave Kellam (NHEP) forwarded promotional materials (maps, bookmarks) to the Commission for distribution.
- T. Walker asked whether the Commission was planning on naming the PW; the consensus was yes.

**7. River Pollution/Applicability of NHDES Grant:** Taylor, Brown and Hampton Falls rivers are on the Impaired List and monies could be available (through the Watershed Restoration and Assistance grant) which would enable the Commission to hire consultants to study the origin and extent of the problems. Because there is little time in which to apply for the grant (pre-proposals are due 10/19/07), the Commission will consider this opportunity next year. Theresa advised the Commission to include a discussion of this problem in the Open Space Conservation Plan.

Theresa left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

## **8. Administration:**

### **Reimbursement of Expenses:**

- G. Smart made a motion to reimburse K. Ayers \$70 for the 2007 Watershed Conference Registration fee from the Conservation Budget; it was seconded by T. Healey-Beattie and passed unanimously.
- G. Smart also moved to approve payment of \$200 to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for annual dues from the Conservation Budget. T. Healey-Beattie seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

M. Garavaglia will contact the NHACC for information on their current programs and resources so the Commission can better utilize this membership.

### **Publicity:**

- M. Garavaglia will write a brief article for the Town newsletter focusing on the current status of the Prime Wetlands initiative.
- S. Hanson has created an e-mail account for the Commission on the web: hfccemail@yahoo.com

**Membership:** Martha Byam and Michael Hastings (junior) were suggested as possible new members for the Commission. K. Ayers will contact them regarding their interest.

Karen also reported that the NHEP would like contact information for the Commission members; she will provide names (only) for all of the members with the exception of N. Roka, who would like her e-mail address included.

**2008 Budget:** the proposed budget is due to E. Small by November 5<sup>th</sup>. Expenditures to date were reviewed with the consensus that it would be important to have funds available for "professional services" in order to continue working with T. Walker after June '08. Consequently, L. Smith made the following motion: "That the current budget remain the same, but that the Commission adds money to the 'professional services' category to provide for continued work with T. Walker, capping the total budget amount at \$7,500." N. Roka seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. M. Garavaglia will contact T. Walker to review the cost for her extended services.

T. Healey-Beattie moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. and G. Smart seconded; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marietta Garavaglia  
CC Administrative Assistant