

PEMBROKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CC)
Minutes of May 11, 2009 Meeting

Present: Lea Anne Atwell, Secretary; Carol Bertsimas, Vice-Chair; Ammy Heiser, Chair; Stetson Heiser; Jeff White, Planning Board (PB) Representative; and Ayn Whytemare.

Not Present: Brian Mrazik, Secretary and David Sheldon, Board of Selectman (BOS) Representative

Others Present: Bill Clark (Item #4); Mike Payeur; and Sharon Watson, CTAP (Item #2)

1. Call to Order: Ammy called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Jeff is now a PB member and is replacing Kevin Krebs as the PB Representative on the CC.

2. CTAP Open Space Planning Program Information Session – Sharon Watson, Executive Director of Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, was present to discuss Pembroke’s participation in the CTAP Open Space program. She discussed a process that will facilitate designating areas within Town to focus conservation efforts.

She outlined a general process, which involves a series of meetings: 1) Form a task force of interested parties (hunters, foresters, farmers, people interested in trails, horseback riders, snowmobile club, garden club members, etc.) to discuss areas of town that should be targeted for conservation. 2) CTAP will prepare a series of maps of Pembroke to help identify areas of high natural resource value and help the task force rank land based on protection criteria. 3) CTAP will revise and finalize maps. 4) Use results of build out scenario. 5) Finalize the plan.

We discussed planning events in conjunction with the Town’s 250 anniversary celebrations, having an online survey for residents to fill out, and putting an article in the quarterly newsletter. We also discussed using our existing land protection criteria and provided Sharon with a copy. They will work to put together a proposal for us. We would like to have the survey up and running sometime this summer, with the process to start in earnest this fall.

3. Review and Adopt Minutes – April 13th - Ayn suggested changing the wording of item number 5 to clarify that Kevin Gagne would like to be an alternate. Carol made a motion to accept the minutes as revised. Stetson seconded. Six in favor, none opposed.

4. Applications from PB for review –

a. Minimum Impact Expedited Wetlands Permit for Bill Clark, 10 Bow Lane – Mr. Clark is applying for an expedited permit from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to make modifications to his property. He was present to discuss the proposed alternations and to seek approval from the CC. Because this is an expedited application, he needs the CC's signature to complete the application.

His property is adjacent to Meeting House Brook, which is less than 20 feet to his garage. He is proposing to add rip rap to the brook in the form of waste concrete blocks, with 6 – 8” rip rap on top of the blocks. The area to be filled is approximately 6 feet high by 20 feet wide. He is also proposing to restore vegetation along the banks as well. He discussed his plans with someone at NHDES, who recommended he use the 6-8” rip rap for all of the material. The concrete blocks will be dug into the brook a little bit and then set to stabilize them.

Ayn recommended planting native species.

Ayn made a motion to sign the application. Carol seconded. Six in favor, none opposed.

5. Conservation Land

a. Monitoring Day Recap - The monitoring day on April 26th was a huge success. About 10 people showed up to help monitor the Baxter, Beck, Bragfield, and Whittemore properties. Kids have built large forts and ditches in an area of the Beck property, and ATV damage was noted on the Whittemore property. Discussion took place about ATVs on Town property, specifically conservation land.

b. Properties to be monitored – Brittany, Butterfield, Gamblin, and Ames still need to be monitored. Lea Anne signed up to monitor Gamblin.

c. White Sands - Jeff and his family did a clean-up at the property and removed lots of trash, including several tires. We discussed talking to PSNH to place a gate at the other end of the road to prevent people from coming in from that end to dump on the property. We also discussed having another clean-up sometime this summer and placing signs at the property.

d. Beck with Steve Walker from LCIP – CC members went on a property monitoring with Steve Walker from the LCIP program at the Beck property.

6. Pine Grove Appraisal – Stetson talked to Mr. Fowler, who is still interested. Stetson made a motion to appropriate up to \$2,500 for a conservation appraisal of the Pine Grove property. Carol seconded the motion. Five in favor. The motion carries.

ACTION ITEM: Stetson will coordinate the appraisal.

7. Acquisition – The Hillman property is still on the market. The deadline for the NH Farm and Ranch program deadline is May 15, 2009. Carol made a motion to move ahead

and sign a Purchase and Sales agreement for the property on Buck Street. The purchase should be subject to the appraisal of the BOS. Lea Anne seconded. Five in favor. The motion carries.

ACTION ITEMS: Ammy and Stetson will work to get the P&S agreement signed. Ammy will talk to David, the Town Administrator re procedures for moving ahead.

8. Coming Events and Meetings of Interest

a. May 12th Site Walk: LTC Properties, 245 Pembroke Hill Road

9. Correspondences and Mail and Website – Ayn wrote letters to the PB from the CC regarding the Holden and Silver Hill applications (see April meeting minutes).

The CC received a letter from NHDES regarding the amended wetland permit issued for the Ames Brook property.

Mike is interested in becoming a CC member. Lea Anne made a motion to accept Mike as a CC member. Carol seconded. Six in favor. Motion carries.

Discussion took place about looking into getting a computer for the CC. Jeff will get together costs for the next meeting. Lea Anne will look into costs for ArcGIS, which can be used to create interactive maps for conservation purposes. We will discuss at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment: Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. Jeff seconded. Six in favor.

Submitted by Lea Anne Atwell, Secretary.

Next Meeting – June 8, 2009