

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWINGTON CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION HELD ON 2 MAY 2002

Present were Commission members George Fletcher, Nancy Cauvet, Jane Hislop, Barbara McDonald, Margaret Lamson, Jack O'Reilly, Dorothy Watson and Kay Akerley and Mark West of West Environmental. Commission member Jim Leger was absent.

Chairman Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. She advised that Tom Morgan, Town Planner, was ill and unable to attend to address the subject of the Regional Wastewater Outfall Project. He will do so at the next meeting.

Nancy Cauvet made a motion that the minutes of the 11 April 2002 meeting be accepted. Seconded by Jack O'Reilly. Motion carried.

The Chairman referred to two invitations which had been received too late to be included in the package delivered to Commission members. One was an invitation to attend the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership's reception to honor Senator Judd Gregg for his leadership in protecting the Great Bay Region, to be held at Sandy Point Discovery Center in Stratham on May 3rd. The other was from The Seacoast Land Trust for their second annual meeting and brunch on May 4th at Harbour Health, Griffin Road, Portsmouth.

Selectmen's rep Jack O'Reilly advised that the Mott Cove residents have not contacted the selectmen further on the subject of the trees on town land which they complain are obstructing their view of the river.

The copy of the Rockingham Planning Commission memo of 7 September 2000 (Subj: Preliminary Feasibility Study - Piscataqua River Basin Wastewater Discharge Project) was briefly discussed. The Chairman said Tom Morgan, Town Planner, had advised that Mr. Frank Underwood of Underwood Engineers, Inc., the firm doing the study, will be at the 20 May meeting of the Planning Board. Commission members are urged to attend this meeting, which will be at 7 p.m. The Chairman again advised that Tom Morgan will be addressing this subject at the Commission's 13 June meeting.

Since Dorothy Watson had arrived late at the last meeting and so was not present when she was reaffirmed as a member of the Open Space Committee, Chairman Lamson asked if she would, in fact, be willing to continue serving on the Committee. She said yes.

Chairman Lamson said that Nancy Cauvet had a few words to say prior to Mark West bringing the Commission up to date on the status of his plans re the natural resource inventory maps. Nancy explained that the PDA is starting to push toward Arboritum Drive, planning a wide access road, etc., and it will be important to know what wetlands we have in that area. She would like to see Mark start his project in the Town Forest area. Barbara McDonald said that since the Commission's last meeting, the PDA has had engineers and a wetland scientist looking into installation of a berm in back of her property. She said what they planned would be totally ineffective and that wetlands would be involved. Mark emphasized that the original goal was for him to identify and inventory the town's natural resources, and he would not like to detour into other agendas. However, he said he could start his work in whatever area the Commission selected.

Mark went on to explain what he plans to do, how he identifies the types of wetlands, etc. Jane Hislop asked if he will also be inventorying endangered species, plants, etc. He said yes. Jane also asked if well-head areas would be designated; Mark said Commission would have to tell David at RPC that this was desired. Jane said she understood such a map already existed, but she will check.

Mark said he plans to do the following: (1) Check with David at RPC about lightening the maps (2) Look at state National Heritage data and (3) Start field work - in two to three weeks.

Identification for Mark as he does his field work was discussed. It was agreed he be furnished a letter of identification and some sort of laminated identification badge such as the Police Dept. furnishes assessors. Selectmen will take care of this.

Mark said he would plan to attend the Commission's meeting in July -- he should have a significant amount of information to report by that time.

Nancy Cauvet distributed copies of page 38 of Charles Moreno's Forest Management Report and directed members' attention to the paragraph recommending a conservation easement for Fox Point. There was considerable discussion of the desirability of such an easement, what areas it would encompass, etc. No decision was reached. Also discussed in connection with the subject was the possibility of the Rockingham County Conservation District's grant being used to help in this area. It was determined that this would not be feasible within the grant parameters.

Jane Hislop suggested that perhaps a team of students from UNH would be available to do a study of Fox Point and its natural resources. Such a team would consist of students majoring in forestry, wildlife, soil, etc. She will look into availability, cost, etc. of such a project.

The Chairman asked Selectmen's rep O'Reilly if the town had received a copy of Wal-Mart's landscaping management plan. He said no, not yet.

Nancy Cauvet brought up the subject of obtaining barrels, flowers, etc. for beautifying area near sign board in South Newington. Since no money had been included in the budget for this, it was decided to see what could be done by obtaining "freebies" from Wal-Mart and perhaps exercise some ingenuity to substitute wood/dirt raised platform instead of expensive barrels.

The Chairman reminded everyone of the meeting with Planning Board on May 20 and next CC meeting on June 13.

Jack O'Reilly moved that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Kay Akerley  
Vice Chair/Secretary