

# Town of Newington, NH

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 20, 2014

- Call to Order:** Chair, Jane Hislop called the February 20, 2014 meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Present:** Chair, Jane Hislop; Nancy Cauvet; Jane Kendall
- Absent:** Jim Weiner; and Thomas Morgan, Town Planner
- Public Guests:** Student Volunteers from UNH Thompson School of Forestry, David Kempton; Paul Lang; Galen Robertson

### 1) **Town Forest:** Community Service Project by UNH Students

Student volunteers, David Kempton, Galen Robertson and Paul Lang with the UNH Thompson School met with the Commission to discuss possibilities of doing 24-36 hours of community service on the Town Forest. David Kempton said their time might be limited, but whatever they chose to do would be a complete project. He said this project could lay the groundwork for yearly projects done by Thompson School students.

Chair Hislop made copies of Charlie Moreno's and Mark West's preliminary management plans for the Town Forest available to the students for review along with maps of the forest. Galen Robertson said the scope of their project might not allow them to go into the management aspect, but a goal could be established for future classes. David said he would like to incorporate a sense of continuity in the project. Paul agreed that it would be a great resource for future course work. Chair Hislop said the Town had additional conservation lands that could serve for study as well.

Several ideas were discussed including a suggestion by Paul to do an informational brochure that would be made available at a kiosk at the trail's entrance, at the library and at Town offices, as well as posting to the Town's website. Chair Hislop suggested they could do a forest day for the school children, and Commissioner Nancy Cauvet said they could do a plant species scavenger hunt. David Kempton said they could possibly upload a GPS map to the Town's website.

Commissioner Cauvet asked what the Galen Robertson said the complete project was due in 2-3 weeks. Chair Hislop and Commissioner Cauvet said they would need to use snowshoes or cross-country skis to access the trails. Chair Hislop had the Commissioners sign a parking permit on Town letterhead for the students.

### 2) **Community Outreach:** NROC Proposal

This item was postponed until next month's meeting on March 13, 2014.

### 3) **Old Business:** Fox Point Easement

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Discussion on this item will continue after the Commission discusses management possibilities with the Board of Selectmen. The discussion with the Board of Selectmen was tentatively scheduled for March 17, 2014.

**4) DES Applications:**

No new DES Applications had come in for signing.

Chair Hislop said they had received statements from DES renewed waste water treatment plans for the towns of Exeter and Newmarket without further explanation as to why.

**5) New Business:** Southeast Land Trust regarding Baird property, Newington Road

Chair Hislop said she walked the Baird property on snowshoe with property owner, Badger Baird on Monday, February 10, 2014.

Chair Hislop said the parcel was covered with wetlands and there was only one buildable lot on the parcel. She said there currently was a two floor building with no siding or plumbing on the parcel. There was some discussion on whether such a building could be used as a wildlife viewing area for educational purposes.

Chair Hislop said there was also a notable stand of hemlocks on the property, and there was a discussion of several parasites and disease that attack the species.

**Minutes:** Because there were not enough commissioners in attendance for a quorum, a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2014 meeting was postponed to the next meeting.

**Announcements and Discussions:**

Chair Hislop said Southeast Land Trust's management report on Trickey's Cove would need to be done at the next meeting.

Chair Hislop encouraged the Commissioners and members of the Public to attend the Town Meeting on March 15, 2014.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned by unanimous decision at 7:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 13, 2014

**Respectfully**

**Submitted by:** Jane K. Kendall, Recording Secretary

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