

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWINGTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2003

Present were Commission members George Fletcher, Jane Hislop, Barbara McDonald, Margaret Lamson, Nancy Cauvet and Kay Akerley, Selectmen's rep Jack O'Reilly, and Town Planner Tom Morgan. Member Dorothy Watson was absent.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Jack O'Reilly made a motion that the minutes of the meeting of 17 December 2002 be accepted; seconded by Barbara McDonald. Motion carried.

Mark West had been scheduled to attend the meeting to give the Commission an update on the Wetlands Inventory project, but he failed to show. Chairman Lamson will contact him to ask about rescheduling.

Chairman Lamson read a letter dated 16 December 2002 from NHDES to TyCom Integrated Systems, Inc. advising that since TyCom had failed to provide information requested, DES was closing the application file. The Chairman advised that nothing had been received by the Commission from TyCom concerning any project back in May, so we don't know what project is referred to. The Chairman will call Dori Wiggin of DES for info.

The Commission took up the subject of the conservation easement on the Frink property. The Chairman referred to the letter of 30 December 2002 from John and Helen Frink to the Commission, copies of which had been provided to each member. There followed discussion of timetable for submission of warrant articles, public hearing, etc. Jack O'Reilly read from the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA Chapter 33:8-a) Procedure for Authorizing Bonds or Notes in Excess of \$100,000. Barbara McDonald said she didn't think we needed to put in a warrant article this year; she understood that the town would have two years to come up with its share of the funds. She also indicated that if the grant from the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program was not forthcoming, the \$1500 the Commission has agreed to pay the RCCD would be wasted. During following discussion it was agreed that the warrant article should go in this year to show the good

faith of the town to meet its share of the funds for the easement. The fact that the warrant article would give the Selectmen the right to negotiate for such bonds would not mean they would have to exercise it. It was further agreed that it was worth the \$1500 risk in order to do all we can to bring the easement on the Frink property to fruition. Tom Morgan pointed out that it would be a good idea to have an informational hand-out available at town meeting -- something showing the cost benefits of such an easement, the impact on taxes if the land should be developed, etc. This would help townspeople understand the wisdom of saving open space.

Jack O'Reilly mentioned the financial arrangement when the town acquired the Mott property on Fox Point. The heirs were paid an amount of \$40,000 per year over a 10-year period. He suggested the Frinks might even be interested in an arrangement of this nature.

The Chairman said she would arrange for a meeting with John and Helen Frink, Selectman O'Reilly, Tracy Degnan of RCCD, and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission to obtain firm appraisal figures for the Frink property. This info is necessary before the grant application can be completed.

Tom Morgan gave an update on Trickey's Cove. He had met with reps of the Seacoast Land Trust and they had settled on final wording of the easement. He said there will be a one-time cost of \$1000 for the Trust to monitor the easement. He said there is an old well on the property and it needs to be filled in to free the town of any liability.

George Fletcher addressed the subject of conservation of electricity. He said they had found at the Sewer Plant that there were savings to be had by obtaining more efficient machinery, bulbs, etc. He said the Sewer Commission had arranged for an engineer at the state level to advise them on steps they might take to conserve electricity. He asked Jack O'Reilly if the Selectmen had considered having someone have a similar look at some of the town buildings. Jack said no, but if George gave him a contact, he would look into it.

Barbara McDonald brought up the subject of recycling. Discussion of the matter followed.

The Chairman said she would contact Mark West to see what happened to the appointment for an up-date and arrange for rescheduling. Barbara McDonald asked Tom Morgan if we have the maps of the inventory. He said all but the historic map -- Barbara Hill has that one.

Jack O'Reilly made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Kay Akerley
Vice Chair/Secretary