

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWINGTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2003

Present were Commission members Barbara McDonald, Margaret Lamson, George Fletcher, Nancy Cauvet, Dorothy Watson, Jane Hislop and Kay Akerley, Selectmen's rep Cosmas Iocovozzi and Town Planner Tom Morgan.

Chairman Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Nancy Cauvet made a motion that the minutes of 9 January 2003 be approved; seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried.

The Chairman referred to copies of two letters from DES -- one to Total Waste Management of River Road and one to Rockingham Properties I of Nimble Hill Road. The Chairman had contacted DES and was told the first was simply to purge DES files; the second needs some follow-up. The Chairman will consult further with DES and report at next meeting.

The Chairman noted that the public hearing on the town budget and the various warrant articles would be held Saturday, 15 February. She asked that as many members as possible attend, as one of the warrant articles to be addressed was the one for the conservation easement on the Frink property.

Mark West of West Environmental was present to give the Commission an update on the town's wetland inventory project. Mark distributed copies of his draft report, which included introduction, methodology, findings, recommendations, etc. and proceeded to "walk" the members through what he has documented so far.

Page 4 of the report presented a table of the inventoried wetlands by type, area and potential prime wetland candidacy. Tom Morgan asked Mark if he could make a run-through of the 31 listed areas. Mark did so, responding to numerous queries as he went down the list. Mark said he would be providing an evaluation form on each of the 23 areas he is recommending be considered prime wetlands. He will also provide information on why he is recommending the others not be designated prime. He said by the end of 2003, he can have enough information for a town warrant article designating

prime wetlands and submission of required forms to the state. It was agreed that Mark should proceed with the project as previously discussed. Jane Hislop asked if we could have the final report by November, in order to give the town time to prepare for town meeting. Mark said this would not be a problem. Chairman Lamson said she would like to have it finished by October, and Tom Morgan said he would shoot for late September.

Barbara McDonald made a motion that the Commission authorize Mark to go ahead with the inventory work on the 23 prime candidate areas; seconded by George Fletcher. Motion carried.

There was discussion as to what the various wetlands areas are called. Some have acquired well-recognized names over the years; others have not. It was agreed that Commission members and Tom Morgan would compile a list for Mark's use.

There was discussion of funds remaining in the contract for the first phase of the project. It was also noted that funds for the next phase, which are included in the town budget, won't be approved until Town Meeting. Mark said he won't order the aerial photos until after Town Meeting.

Mark said the Commission could expect his final report in a couple of weeks. He said he would meet with the Commission again in April or May. At that time he should have photos, etc.

The Chairman asked Tom Morgan to give a brief report on the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC). A representative had attended a recent meeting of the Planning Board and gave a presentation on what NROC can do to help communities focus their natural resource protection goals and locate the technical and financial assistance they need to accomplish them. Tom said the Planning Board advised that Newington was in the process of updating its Master Plan and that perhaps NROC could be of assistance in another 6 to 9 months.

Chairman Lamson updated members on the meeting held the morning of 13 February with John Frink, Tracy Degnan of RCCD, and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Newington CC re the conservation easement on the Frink property. Kay Akerley read the proposed warrant article. It was agreed the

Selectmen be requested to send out a newsletter prior to town meeting to inform townspeople of all aspects of the proposal. It was agreed all members and the Town Planner should have input.

The Chairman referred to several letters the town had received from Mr. Howard Patten -- all requesting return of his \$7000 bond. Board of Selectmen Chairman Cosmas Iocovozzi said the Selectmen would be sending Mr. Patten a letter informing him that he will have to meet with and resolve the landscaping problem on Nimble Hill Road with the Conservation Commission prior to any action by the Selectmen.

On motion by Nancy Cauvet and seconded by Jane Hislop, it was voted to adjourn at 9:26 p.m.

Kay Akerley
Secretary/Vice Chair