

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
HELD ON 8 APRIL 2004

Present were Commission members Dorothy Watson, Margaret Lamson, Kay Akerley, and Barbara McDonald. Commission members Jane Hislop and George Fletcher arrived later in the meeting after taking care of prior commitments. Also present were Town Planner Tom Morgan and Selectman locovozzi. Also present was Jack Pare, who has taken an active interest in the Commission's wetlands inventory project, and who has been very helpful regarding same; he was invited to join members at the table.

Mark West had been scheduled to attend the meeting to give an update on the Prime Wetlands designation project, but a medical emergency involving his son just prior to the meeting necessitated cancellation of his plans to join us.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of 23 February 2004 were read. Barbara McDonald made a motion the minutes be accepted, seconded by Dorothy Watson. Motion carried.

The Chairman read a letter from Nancy Cauvet, in which she indicated that because of the press of other commitments, she felt she could no longer serve on the Commission. She indicated, however, that she would fulfill her commitment to fill the flower barrels in South Newington. All members agreed that Nancy would be greatly missed as a participating member of the Commission.

The Chairman also read a letter she had sent to Commissioner Nolan of DES protesting the transfer of Wetlands Enforcement Investigator Dori Wiggin from the Pease field office to Concord. It was noted that similar protests had been submitted by other area Conservation Commissions. Selectman locovozzi said he had heard rumors that there was speculation in some quarters that consideration was being given to doing away with DES.

A tentative date of May 19<sup>th</sup> was set for the next meeting with Mark West. The Chairman will check with him in a week or so to see if that is acceptable to him. She will let members know.

The Chairman recognized Selectman locovozzi, who had asked to speak to the Commission re a newly-found well at Trickey's Cove. He said the well was 70' deep and the Seacoast Land Trust, which holds the easement on the property, requires that the well be properly decommissioned to eliminate any potential liability. This will, of course, require the expenditure of money. Selectman locovozzi requested the Commission's approval to use monies from the

Conservation Fund for this purpose. Barbara McDonald objected strenuously to any proposal to use any monies from the fund other than for the intended use to acquire and preserve open land. She also objected to any plan which would require the filling of the well. There was much discussion as to what method could be used to solve the problem of the well's decommissioning. Jack Pare said there appeared to be three options – (1) fill it (2) cap it with concrete lid or (3) build well house. Unfortunately, the terrain makes getting any sort of heavy materials to the site. Members suggested various solutions, but Selectman locovozzi pointed out that DES is very specific about what is acceptable, and noted that DES requires that the decommissioning of wells be performed by a licensed NH water well contractor who has the necessary equipment and experience to complete the job safely and properly. Kay Akerley asked how much money would be required to take care of the matter. Selectman locovozzi said he did not know at this point, but it would be in the thousands.

After further discussion of how the well problem could be resolved, and how it should be funded, Kay Akerley made a motion that Tom Morgan write a letter to Town Attorney Loughlin, requesting his legal opinion as to whether the work required should be considered as part of the land acquisition process or as a custodial responsibility of the Selectmen. Seconded by Barbara McDonald. Motion carried.

Barbara McDonald made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Kay Akerley  
Secretary/Vice Chair