

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWINGTON CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2004

Present were Commission members Margaret Lamson, George Fletcher, Jane Hislop, Dorothy Watson, Barbara McDonald and Kay Akerley. Also present and invited to participate in the discussion of the wetlands inventory project was Planning Board member Jack Pare. Also in attendance as an observer was Jennifer Hunter of the NH Estuaries Project, which organization funded the report which Mark West later presented to the Commission.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Jane Hislop made a motion to accept the minutes of the 13 July 2004 meeting, seconded by Dorothy Watson. Motion carried.

The Chairman advised that the Board of Selectmen had received a letter from Nancy Bunker and Jeanine Biskaduras requesting permission to plant a tree somewhere near the Town Hall in memory of Pam Blevins. The Selectmen advised they had asked the ladies to contact the Conservation Commission to finalize plans. The Chairman said she had not yet been contacted by the ladies. There was discussion as to where a tree could be planted, but it was agreed that we needed to know what kind of tree was being considered.

The Chairman referred to a request the Selectmen had received from Mr. Smith, the Greenland farmer who plants, cuts, and harvests town land on Fox Point, requesting approval to use wood ash as fertilizer. The Selectmen had asked Mark West for guidance in the matter, but Mark said this was not his expertise and recommended that DES be consulted.

The Chairman turned the meeting over to Mark West to bring Commission members up to date on the wetlands inventory project and to discuss the upcoming meeting of the Commission with the Planning Board. He first showed slides indicating the wetlands mitigation inventory for the 19 coastal communities. This report was prepared by West Environmental and funded by the NH Estuaries Project. He gave the Commission two notebooks – one which included the information on all 19 coastal towns and the other which included information on Newington only.

Barbara McDonald said she was very disappointed and upset that the Commission had not been provided, for review, the proposed presentation to the Planning Board. She said the support of the Planning Board is essential and she didn't think we were prepared. Mark said he

had all the information readily available and could have handout sheets ready in time for the meeting with the Planning Board – he just wanted to be sure of the preferred strategy and the best way to educate the townspeople. There followed a discussion as to what, and how much, information should be included in the info sheet. Also discussed was how the list of prime wetlands could be prioritized in the event it was considered undesirable to include them all in the proposal to the town at this time. Mark said they could be tiered and said other towns have taken this route.

The Chairman reminded members that our meeting with the Planning Board is scheduled for Monday, 27 September, at 6:30 p.m.

Jane Hislop made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barbara McDonald. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Kay Akerley  
Secretary/Vice Chair