

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWINGTON CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2004

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

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

Barbara McDonald made a motion that the minutes of the 14 October 2004 meeting be accepted, seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried.

Chairman Lamson advised that she had sent a memo to the Board of Selectmen, as discussed at last meeting, recommending that the Selectmen undertake a study to mitigate the use of salt and its detrimental impact on our local roads by substituting brine solution or similar product on all town roads. She said no acknowledgment or reply has been received.

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. This hearing was convened to consider the disbursement from the Conservation Fund of as much as \$300,000 toward the acquisition of a conservation easement at the Frink Farm, 272 Nimble Hill Road. The final settlement cost of the easement is \$1,200,000. Of this amount, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will contribute \$600,000 (50%), the Frink family will concede \$300,000 (25%), and the Town of Newington will contribute \$300,000 (25%).

There was discussion as to how the town's share of \$300,000 should be funded. Jane Hislop made a motion that the Newington Conservation Commission disburse from the Conservation Fund \$300,000 for the acquisition of a conservation easement at the Frink farm. Seconded by Barbara McDonald. Motion carried .

It was noted a letter will have to be sent to the Town Treasurer authorizing the expenditure of funds from the Conservation Fund.

The Chairman closed the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. It is noted for the record that two residents attended part of the hearing.

The Chairman reminded members that 22 November at 6:30 had been set for the continuation of the Planning Board's public hearing on prime wetlands.

The Chairman said that Mr. And Mrs. Jacques of Airport Road were very concerned over the possible impact on them as a result of the proposed prime wetland designations. It was noted that Tim Field of South Newington has also expressed concern. The Chairman asked members how they felt about her calling Mark West and asking him to meet individually with those who have expressed concern. Kay Akerley said in view of the number of opportunities people have had to attend meetings and ask Mark questions concerning prime wetlands, it might not be practical to ask Mark now to meet with and address individual concerns. She pointed out that if it is done for one, it must be done for all. Bardbara McDonald said she would like to see Mark available to anyone who has a questdion. The Chairman said she would contact Mark and see if he would be willing to address these individual concerns.

The Chairman said the PDA (specifically their attorney, Ms. Hinchey) has indicated that the PDA wishes to submit its own nominations for wetlands to be designated prime. It was noted that the law does not permit any other than a local governing body, or its representatives, to designate, map or document prime wetlands lying within its boundaries. The PDA has been informed of this by both the Chairman and the Town Planner.

The Chairman noted that the wetlands resource books have been received and will be available for perusal at the Town Hall.

The proposed budget for 2005 was discussed and the following figures were tentatively approved: Dues \$162; Beautification \$200; Wetlands project \$5000; Town Forest \$8000 and Legal \$2000, for a total of \$15,362. After a discussion of the figure proposed for Legal, it was agreed to postpone motion on the proposed budget pending Selectman locovozzi's report on the year 2004 legal expenditures in connection with conservation.

Barbara McDonald made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Kay Akerley  
Secretary/Vice Chair