

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWINGTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2002

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

Present in the audience were Chris Cross and Gail Pare.

In the absence of Chairman Lamson, Kay Akerley, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Barbara McDonald made a motion that the minutes of the meeting of 10 October 2002 be accepted. Seconded by Jane Hislop. Motion carried.

Mark West of West Environmental was present to give the Commission an update on his wetlands inventory project. He handed out copies of the 10 April 2002 contract which listed the scope of services to be provided. He pointed out that we were now at Step #6 (Review preliminary results of Wetland Inventory with Conservation Commission). He said all targeted wetlands had been inspected. There were a total of 32 over one acre in size. He will have photos and data sheets on each. Of the 32 areas, he considers 17 to be prime wetland candidates.

Mark explained at length the pros and cons of having the town's prime wetlands designated on town tax maps, submitted to vote of town via warrant article and submitted to the state, versus mapping town-designated wetlands. In the case of any proposed disturbance to wetlands under the former, significantly more evaluation is required than that required for other wetlands. While this is good, he did point out that there could be times when the additional requirements could have some negative impact.

Mark put on the board a map which showed the town's wetlands. He had numbered each of the targeted areas and explained in detail the characteristics of each and the various elements which made them either more or less valuable. He answered numerous questions from Commission members.

Mark said he had spent roughly \$5500 of the \$8600 available. He passed out copies of a proposed scope of services and cost estimate to prepare reports and maps needed to designate prime wetlands for the town. Additional services would include assisting the Commission with a Wetland Ordinance. The estimated cost is \$4620. There was discussion as to whether the April contract could be amended to include some of the work outlined in the new proposal, since all monies for work under the first contract will not be required. Jack O'Reilly said probably the easiest way would be to leave the original contract as is, and encumber any money not spent by the end of the year. Funds required for the project outlined in the November contract can be covered in the upcoming budget proposals.

Mark said he would have photos and descriptions of each wetland targeted by January. He said once the Commission has determined which wetlands they want to designate as prime, slides can also be prepared. All agreed a slide presentation would be a valuable tool in educating townspeople and others to the existence and value of the town's wetland resources.

Mark agreed to attend the Commission's January 9th meeting and at that time will advise what areas he recommends be designated prime.

The Acting Chairman recognized Chris Cross for a question concerning the Trickey Cove area. Chris displayed a map of the area on which was indicated a wetland site and asked Mark why it was not included in the wetland inventory. Mark said he had only considered areas of more than two acres, and this was too small to be included.

The Acting Chairman advised that Mr. Adler, the Newington School Principal, had requested that the Commission consider resuming its past practice of contributing to the every-other-year conservation camp for 5th and 6th graders. After discussion, Jane Hislop made a motion that the Commission support the Newington School every-other-year conservation camp program in the amount of \$250, with the proviso that the children do something for the town in return, e.g., participate in the Coastal Clean-up, or some other project to benefit the town. Seconded by Barbara McDonald. Motion carried with none opposed. It was noted that since the children participated

in the camp this year, no money need be included in the budget until next year.

Jack O'Reilly said the Selectmen are ready to sign the easement for the Seacoast Land Trust re Trickey Cove, but need to know what restrictions/guidelines the Commission wishes to include. Chris Cross provided a draft of suggested guidelines. After considerable discussion a list of land maintenance items was agreed to. Jack O'Reilly made a motion that these be incorporated into the easement. Seconded by Nancy Cauvet. The motion carried with Barbara McDonald opposed because of the inclusion of Item 3. The following are the items which were approved for inclusion: 1) Access is limited to use by foot, horses, or non-motorized vehicle. 2) Access is restricted to daylight hours only (sunrise to sunset). No parking allowed on the property. 3) Paths are not required to be maintained or patrolled by town or any other agency. 4) Use of firearms and hunting weapons is prohibited. 5) The carrying or consuming of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. 6) Access may not be used for any commercial purposes. 7) Permits for special use may be granted by the Board of Selectmen. 8) No fires. 9) No littering.

The Acting Chairman said the Chairman did not plan to have a regular meeting in December, but would call for a brief afternoon meeting at some point to vote on a proposed budget. Members were asked to consider the following proposals and be ready to vote in December:

Dues NHACC	162
Beautification	200
Wetlands Inv.	4620
Town Forest	3000

Barbara McDonald referred to a comment Mark had made about drainage at the Frizzell property on Fox Point Road. Mark said it appeared utility lines had been run through the culvert and he said sediment has built up so that water does not flow freely through the ditch; he said the Commission might want to suggest to Mr. Frizzell that he mulch the material in the ditch to correct the problem. Jack O'Reilly and Kay Akerley said we should first check the Frizzell application to DES and the DES reply. It was agreed this would be looked into.

Jack O'Reilly said the town is in receipt of a proposal from the PDA to lease the Town Forest to the town for a period of 25 years. He said that is considered unacceptable - the Selectmen will ask for a 50-year lease. Also, they will press for wording that stipulates that when the land is turned over to the PDA by the government, the PDA will then turn it over to the town. He said one of the stipulations the PDA has currently included in the proposed lease is the requirement that the town forest the parcel. He added that he recommends \$3000 be included in the Conservation Commission budget for this purpose. We need to let the PDA know that we intend to do something with the forest when it is returned. It was agreed this should be included in the budget.

Jack O'Reilly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dorothy Watson.
Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Kay Akerley
Vice Chair/Secretary