

Jaffrey Conservation Commission
Minutes
August, 25, 2010

In Attendance: **Bill Graf, Temporary Chair**
Nora Barton Bryant
Carolyn Garretson
Ann McEntee
Herb Gramm, Guest
Dan Wicklund, Guest

Selectmen's Rep: **Kathy Batchelder**

Absent: Jim Bearce
Michael George
Ron Rogstad, Alternate
Patricia Weiner

1: Temporary Chair Bill Graf called meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Nora was appointed as scribe.

2: Minutes of July 28, 2010 were accepted as received.

3: Correspondence:

A letter from Monadnock Conservancy reported that their stewards, Emily Hague and Don Launder made their required annual visit to the Children's Woods conservation easement on May 20th, 2010 and noted nothing of concern. A full monitoring report is available from them on request.

Newsletters from Monadnock Conservancy and Granite State Tree Farm were shared.

Board of Adjustment Minutes for August and September Agenda were distributed.

Forest Society Publication: *Amending or Terminating Conservation Easements: Conforming to State Charitable Trust Requirements* was received for filing and for future reference.

A letter from the Cheshire County Conservation District regarding establishing an Agriculture Commission was presented.

4: Treasurer's Report:

Carolyn presented the treasurer's report showing we have approximately \$7,200 available at this time. Jeff Littleton of Moosewood Environmental has been paid \$500 for monitoring the Grey Goose easement.

5: Priority Items.

A: Update on Open Space AdHoc Com was given by Bill and Carolyn. The role of the OSC has been discussed within the group with pros and cons given for establishing a separate Committee or having an existing Committee/Board take on the duties when the role of such a body is established. General consensus of ConCom members was in favor of separate OSC.

B. Update on Shattuck Easement Proposal: Our role in contacting potential donors is unclear and no action has been taken at this point. MC has submitted the grant request to LChip. If this grant is not approved MC will not be able to proceed with the easement.

C. Report on August 3, 2010 ZBA meeting: Minutes of said meeting were distributed to ConCom members present.

6: Old Business:

A: Brochure: Michael was not present to give an update on the current status of the brochure.

B: Riverfest: Nora reported that she felt it was beneficial for us to continue having a presence at Riverfest and that Carolyn's providing a large number of invasive/non native plants all potted and labeled for display was a **MAJOR** contribution. They created interest and highly important educational value for all who observed them and sparked conversations between Commission members and the public. The Asian Longhorn Beetle display and literature, our books on the CPCA, Children's Woods, the NRI with large maps, Invasive Plants information and articles, etc. on general areas of environmental issues and conservation were also displayed.

Jim mentioned that it might be helpful if we wore name tags which would aid in identifying individual members for the general public.

7: New Business:

A. Program for Removal of Invasive Species: Ann distributed a brochure "invasive plants" published by the New England Wild Flower Society to each member. She also distributed a packet of information which included a proposal for a work shop on Invasive Species Eradication that would be conducted by Ted Elliman, Vegetative Management Coordinator, New England Wild Flower Society. She described the preparation necessary prior to the workshop and the weed wrenches that would be necessary for the training session. She also included written material on the wrenches and their use. Mr. Elliman is sending her information on a grant from the NFP that is sometimes available for such community projects. She will contact Mr. Elliman about the advisable number of people for the workshop. Springtime is suggested as the best time for such a project.

Nora mentioned a program on invasive/non native plants presented by a state of NH employee (update: Doug Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator, NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets and Food, Division of Plant Industry) a year or so ago courtesy of the Dublin

Conservation Commission that 3 of our members attended. Carolyn remembered his name and the name of another state employee who advises on invasive plants: Amy Smagula. (update: Clean Lakes & Exotic Species Coordinator, NH DES)

B. Highway Dept. Policy on Invasive Species. Nora is to contact Randy Heglin of the Dept. of Public Works to see if there are any state or any other enforced regulations regarding the eradication of invasive plants that his department must observe. At that time she will also share information on the ALB and discuss the invasive plant subject in general.

C: Review Report on Gray Goose Monitoring: Bill shared Jeff Littleton's /Moosewood Environmental monitoring information of the Gray Goose Conservation Easement on Squantum Rd. Our objective is to use this report as a guide to our doing the monitoring ourselves on a yearly basis.

D: Lowering of Contoocook River for Dam Repair: Kathy Batchelder explained the email she sent us earlier in the day regarding the lowering of the Contoocook river by removal of the gate controls on the town dam. This is being done to "facilitate replacement of the currently inoperable control gates." It is anticipated this will be done in the early fall and the project will not be completed until at least mid – year. Kathy wondered with the water reduced to the natural riverbed if it would be possible to eradicate the milfoil present at this time. We will follow up on her idea.

9: Announcements:

A: Monadnock Conservancy Annual Meeting
Saturday, August 28, 2010
Dublin School, 09:30

B. Monadnock Conservancy Timber Harvest Tour
Friday, September 3, 2010
Old Keene Rd., Gilsum, 1-4 PM

10: Adjournment: 8:50 PM Moved by Ann; seconded by Nora

Next meeting September 22, 2010 at Jaffrey Town Offices at 7:00 PM All welcome.

