

Jaffrey Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting held October 23, 2013

Jaffrey Town Hall 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Barbara Alix, Kevin Alix, Nancy Beiter , Recorder, Nora Barton Bryant, Carolyn D. Garretson, Chairman, and Don MacIsaac, Select Board Representative

Regrets: Michael George, Patricia T. Weiner, Alternate

Absent: Karen Morris, Alternate

Guest: Elizabeth Webster

Elizabeth Webster was welcomed and encouraged to consider becoming a permanent member of the Commission

The September minutes were approved without objection.

CDG presented a financial review highlighting the following:

- \$9,223.50 was received by the ConComm in Land Use Change Tax (LUCT)¹ money.
- \$4,135.75 was received as the ConComm's share of the timber harvest on town property
- The Contoocook River Commission was sent \$300 for water testing equipment. We received a thank you note for the donation.

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¹ In 1972, the NH Legislature recognized the need to offset development with tools and resources for conservation. RSA 79:A, the "Current Use" Law was passed so landowners with large tracts of land 10 acres or greater would not be forced to sell their "Open Space" land simply to pay the rising property taxes. If the landowner decides to put their land in "Current Use", they receive substantial tax benefits and in return, they "promise" that they will not develop their land.

If, at anytime in the future they decide to develop their land and "change" it's "use" they are subject to a "LUCT" equal to 10% of the present day "market" value of the land taken out of "Current Use".

The Legislature also set up a system whereby individual cities and town may have the ability to protect or purchase "Open Space" to preserve the rural character of NH. Cities and Towns may deposit all or a percentage of the (LUCT) collected into a "Conservation Fund" pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 II .

- CDG will contact Michael George to be sure that map is ready to be printed before year's end. We still have no statement of interest for July or August, 2013, from the Town.

KA reported on his attendance at a workshop presented jointly by the Monadnock Conservancy and the Student Conservation Association on Trail Stewardship and Maintenance October 8-11, 2013. The workshop consisted of four full days in which attendees cleared a trail in Gilsum on a property newly acquired by the Monadnock Conservancy fronting on Route 10. He also learned how to build a bridge, how to create a trail from nothing, how to install rock steps, how to make a map of trail After his training, KA prepared a detailed Trail Stewardship and Maintenance Proposal which he handed out at the meeting. The ConComm minuted its thanks to KA for this excellent handout. He also recruited Mark Patterson, trail steward for the Monadnock Conservancy, to help with trail restoration and clean up at the Cheshire Pond Conservation Area (CPCA).

CDG attended an all day workshop sponsored by the Local River Advisory Committee on October 19, 2013. She attended the subgroup meeting that concentrated on the changes in the Shoreline Protection Act. The LRAC is charged with enforcement of that Act.

A Motion was passed approving the immediate publication of the Children's Woods Brochure and Map.

The proposed CPCA map is currently in the hands of Joanne Carr in the Town Office who is working on producing a publishable version.

Scheduling the monitoring visit to the Grey Goose Conservation Area was postponed to the next meeting.

Members were reminded that the Town Planning Board will meet November 12 to discuss the proposed expansion at Millipore and to discuss Class 6 roads. NBB and NB agreed to attend the meeting.

Since the regular date for the ConComm's November meeting would be the evening before Thanksgiving and the December meeting would fall on Christmas Day, it was agreed to cancel those two meetings and schedule a special meeting on December 4, 2013. CDG will prepare the appropriate notices and post them.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. so that everyone could go home and watch the Boston Red Sox win the World Series!