



TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of June 8, 2006 held at the Memorial Building, 7:00PM

Note: These minutes are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Commission at its next meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:07 by John Trachy. Geobe McCusker volunteered as scribe for this meeting.

Members present were: Ken Downs; Boris Busheuff; Richard Currier; John Trachy; Cynthia Bruss; Geobe McCusker. Absent: Ken Jacques; Laura Hummel; Daphne Klein. Also present were Deborah Stanley and Beth McGuinn representing the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust.

Minutes of the May 10, 2006 meeting approved as submitted.

Richard Currier made note that his term is to expire in 2008, not 2009 as indicated on a recent membership list. He will contact Karen Cook to have this corrected.

Deborah Stanley and Beth McGuinn representing the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) outlined the mission of the ASLPT in the 12 towns served. They described past and present activities including working with individual landowners, town conservation commissions and other conservation groups such as the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Some town Conservation Commissions such as Sunapee, Andover and Sutton are working with landowners and in some cases providing funds to help pay for survey work. Conservation easements are written in general terms and are created to suit the desires of the landowner. Benefit to the public takes many forms. ASLPT has 80 properties now protected and is working currently with two property owners in Springfield. Examples were given of conservation easements in adjoining towns. The "monitoring" of easements was described – trained volunteers visit easement properties annually, walk bounds and note condition of easement property. Some towns are granting conservation easements to ASLPT on town-owned lands to ensure conservation in perpetuity. Sutton Conservation Commission has hosted a "Special Places" meeting to explain benefits of conservation easements to invited landowners and has met with success. Wilmot has hosted a similar event. ASLPT is planning a regional land summit meeting to be held sometime in 2007. ASLPT is interested in working with the Springfield Conservation Commission to identify lands worthy of conservation. Beth McGuinn discussed restrictions on public access on conserved land and noted that it is the landowner that decides what or what not to allow on the land to be conserved. These decisions are written into the easement. Examples were given of the intent and effect of conservation easements on subsequent land buyers. Information packets were distributed.



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John reviewed correspondence from the selectmen asking the Commission to find a new secretary. No suggestions at this time.

Cynthia provided an update on the work at the Gile Forest. The map has been broken into 20-minute (mapping) blocks with important features noted. Cynthia suggested approaching the state to possibly get a conservation easement on the Gile. She is to determine whom to direct this inquiry to. The issue of ATVs in the Gile and the damage being caused was also discussed. The Commission agreed to ask Chief Tim Julian to approach Fish and Game and ask how the town can assist (John will contact him), possibly through education of ATV owners and posting of signage around the perimeter of the Gile.

Cynthia asked for a treasurer's report. As there is no treasurer John will request information from the selectmen.

Discussion concerning the establishment of a Conservation Fund which would hold unexpended appropriations and gifts. Discussion to be continued to July meeting.

John asked if there was support for a July meeting at which time the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission would present options for conducting the Wetlands and Natural Resources inventories. It was agreed that the next meeting would be Thursday, July 13, 7PM.

John produced pictures of erosion and sedimentation damage around a building site in town. It is understood that there is no requirement for those obtaining a building permit to provide a plan for erosion and sedimentation control. It was agreed to ask the selectmen to add a requirement for such a plan when building permits are requested.

There was discussion concerning the lack of referrals from the selectmen, planning and zoning boards for issues that involve wetlands, driveway permits, septic systems, building permits, variances, sub-divisions etc. It was decided that the Commission would request the cooperation of these boards in referring such matters for review and comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. Motion by Ken, second by Cynthia.