



**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD**  
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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2007**

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

Members present were: John Trachy, Cynthia Bruss, Daphne Klein, Ken Jacques, Ken Downs, Todd Richardson. Absent were: Robert Anderson, Geobe McCusker, Jane Seekamp

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by John Trachy.

The minutes of the 10/11/07 meeting were approved with a correction. Absent at the meeting was also Geobe McCusker.

**Update -- Reduced Salt Winter Maintenance Area:** John talked again to Alan Hanscom of NH DOT. Mr. Hanscom advised that the survey has been completed and that he saw no reason why the request for reduced maintenance could not be accommodated. John has sent letters to affected department heads and the superintendent of schools requesting written support for the concept. Once the letters are presented to Mr. Hanscom he will schedule a public meeting.

**Update – Wetlands/Natural Resource Inventory:** Cynthia reported that John Severance and Elise Lawson from Watershed to Wildlife have apparently completed the field work and are now compiling data and constructing maps. Provisional maps are to be sent for review by the end of November. A date for the public presentation in January has not been sent. It was mentioned that the selectmen would like the computer used to display the data to be located in the meeting room. A computer has been donated for the project, but a monitor and a printer will be needed. The Outreach Committee will meet November 11 to discuss advertising for the meeting and to be put on the ZBA and Planning Board agendas to update them.

**Committee meetings:**

**Wetlands:** There were site visits with the ZBA on properties that involve wetlands issues on October 20<sup>th</sup>. John attended the first at 571 Four Corners Road and John and Daphne attended the second at the Woodcrest point of land on Lake Kolelemook. Both applications remain pending at the ZBA after its November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Outreach:** The Outreach Committee will meet November 11 at 10:00 am



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Page 2 of 2

**Conservation Lands:** Cynthia, Todd, Daphne and John attended the Ausbon Sargent Land Conservation Summit on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Cynthia expressed interest in inventorying class 6 roads and exploring the possibility of establishing an Agricultural Commission in town.

John noted that the selectmen minutes imply that there are town-owned properties that may be considered for sale. There was discussion concerning the need to review these before town meeting to determine if any are suitable for retention as conserved lands. It was the consensus of the Commission members that we should request information regarding these properties.

An explanation of feature-based zoning was offered by Ken Jacques (also Planning Board member). This approach is being considered by the Planning Board as a tool to channel development nearer to core services.

John initiated a discussion concerning the advisability and feasibility of monitoring conservation easements granted to the town. It was noted that as subdivisions occur there are often portions of the land that are designated as “wildlife corridors” or include wetlands buffers. Restrictions on use can be quickly forgotten and the town does not now follow up to ensure compliance. It is thought that conservation easements held by the town on these lands would provide the town additional status in the event of a misunderstanding or misuse of the lands. The Commission discussed the need for the training of monitors and it was suggested that Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust might be able to assist us as it does hold training seminars annually for its own monitors. A draft policy statement was discussed and it was agreed that this would be refined at the December meeting. The initial draft reads:

The Springfield Conservation Commission appreciates and values the conservation easements donated to the Town and will, upon request of the Selectmen, perform baseline documentation and monitoring to ensure compliance with the terms of these easements.

Some members discussed GPS errors in comparing locations with survey-quality equipment. It was mentioned that GPS units should be configured to reflect the NAD 83 New Hampshire State Plane - US Survey – Feet and be WAAS enabled.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

John D. Trachy  
Chairman