



TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
759 MAIN STREET, PO BOX 22
SPRINGFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03284-0022
PHONE (603)763-4805 FAX (603)763-3336
www.springfieldnh.net

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2009

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

Members present were: John Trachy, Cynthia Bruss, Daphne Klein, Ken Jacques, Jane Seekamp, Bob Ruel, and Todd Richardson. Also present was Selectman Don Hill. Absent was Robert Anderson (Alt). The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by John Trachy.

Wildlife Action Plan: Frank Mitchell and Amanda Stone of UNH Cooperative Extension joined the CC and introduced the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) Community Assistance Program. The goal is to assist the CC in the integration of the WAP into the Conservation Plan and, eventually, the Master Plan. Based on the information gathered a meeting outline will be developed and implemented commencing with the February 10th meeting.

Minutes: Cynthia made a motion, seconded by Todd, to approve the minutes of 12/4/08. The minutes were approved unanimously. Bob made a motion, seconded by Daphne, to approve the minutes of 11/22/08. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Wetlands Committee: Signs indicating the locations of reduced salt application on the roads have been placed on Route 114 and on Four Corners Road. May DOT meeting minutes and salt use graph are now on the CC website.

Outreach Committee: Todd, Cynthia, and Daphne made bird feeders with the kindergarten classes in December. Cynthia made a motion, seconded by Todd, that the CC pay \$33.20 out of the budget for 15 magnifying glasses to be used for outreach programs. The motion passed unanimously.

Conservation Lands: The cutting that had been scheduled in the Gile State Forest has been put on hold due to the low price of pulp. Work on the SRKG spur trail in the Society Lot and the Royal Arch Lot has also been put on hold until the spring.

Warrant Articles: Don reported that the Select Board is still waiting for an opinion from the town's legal counsel regarding SB 381. This bill authorizes towns to contribute conservation funds to projects sponsored by private conservation groups (such as land trusts) without having to hold a legal interest in the property.

After some discussion, Todd made the following motion, seconded by Jane: If there is not an adverse opinion from the town's legal counsel regarding SB 381, and if the Select Board does not place the proposed warrant article on the town warrant, the CC will move forward with a petition to vote on that warrant article at town meeting. (*Warrant Article Text: "Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the conservation committee to expend funds for contributions to 'qualified organizations' for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property?"*) The motion passed with 6 voting in favor and 1 opposed.



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2009 Budget: John presented a proposed CC budget request for 2009 of \$1,000.00. John made a motion, seconded by Todd, to approve this proposed budget request. The motion passed unanimously. Ken presented the treasurer's report. Daphne made a motion, seconded by Bob to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

2008 Town Report: Suggestions were made about what to include in the town report.

Communications and Miscellaneous: John shared some DES updates.

After some discussion about light pollution, Cynthia made a motion, seconded by Todd, that the Conservation Commission write a letter to the Planning Board asking them to consider including a lighting ordinance in their planning ordinances, since the majority of the Springfield residents who responded to the most recent Master Plan survey identified light pollution as a concern. The motion passed with 6 in favor and 1 abstention.

The Brooks Lot walk scheduled for 12/14 was cancelled due to icy conditions. This walk will be rescheduled for anyone interested in going some time when conditions are more favorable.

An additional working meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, at 7:00 p.m. to review and discuss the Wildlife Action Plan. Regular February meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Election of officers: Ken made a motion, seconded by Jane that the following slate of officers be approved for 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

- Chair: John Trachy
- Vice chair: Cynthia Bruss
- Secretary: Daphne Klein
- Treasurer: Ken Jacques

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daphne Klein

Secretary