

**Conservation Commission
Memorial Building**

**January 2, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Bruce Allen.

Members present: Bruce Allen, Ken Jacques, Daphne Klein, Cynthia Bruss (alternate). Also present: Leigh Callaway

Ken Jacques made a motion, seconded by Bruce Allen, to approve both the minutes of 12/5/13 and the work session minutes of 12/12/13. The motion passed unanimously.

Wetlands:

- Springfield Wetlands Project: There was a brief review of some of the points raised at the Planning Board meeting of 12/19/13 about the wetlands project. At this time no one present has seen the completed wetlands map. The general consensus was that there does not seem to be enough time for public discussion and questions prior to town meeting.
- McDaniels Marsh dam: Cynthia has not received any further information from Fish and Game about cutting some trees in front of the dam.

Conservation Lands and Town Owned Lots:

- Leigh spoke to the other Selectmen about liability issues on town owned property and reported back that there no concerns about the CC putting in walking trails on town owned lots.
- Brooks lot: Leigh will make an additional sign for this lot.
- Kinsley lot: Cynthia reported she went out for another walk around the lot and saw additional areas where she felt mature pine trees could be cut. She suggested that other interested CC members go out to see what they think.

Outreach:

- Cynthia and Daphne would like to organize a program for the public about vernal pools, probably to be held in late March. Then in April, there would be some follow up guided walks to vernal pools. They will work on this and report back at the next meeting.

Other business:

- Leigh handed out copies of a letter from DES, dated 12/19/13, requesting more information regarding the dredge and fill application submitted by the town. Jeff Evans will bring the requested information to the DES office.
- There was a discussion about the fact that the Conservation Fund has been steadily diminishing. Money from the fund has been spent on a variety of special projects for the town over the past years, but money is no longer coming into the fund, as it had in the past. Leigh contacted NHMA's Legal Inquiries to ask if unspent money from the CC's ordinary operating appropriation could go into the Conservation Fund at the end of the fiscal year instead of into the town's fund balance. Christine Fillmore at NHMA explained how this can be legally done if approved at town meeting. Leigh will discuss this with the budget committee.

Action Items:

- **Leigh will make an additional sign for the Brooks lot.**
- **Ken will get the metal boundary markers made for the town owned lots.**
- **Leigh will talk with the Budget Committee about the Conservation Fund.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daphne Klein
Secretary