

Loudon Conservation Commission
May 9, 2007
Meeting Minutes [Draft]

Julie Robinson, Colin Cabot, Jess Storey and Dan Geiger were present.

George Page reminded the commission that he and some other members of the Clough Pond Association had drafted a Watershed Protection Ordinance and provided it to the commission to review and to get its support. The commission members agreed to be prepared to discuss it in depth at the next meeting. They also asked for someone involved in drafting the ordinance to be present to discuss what the ordinance was meant to accomplish that is different than the existing regulations.

Paulie Touzin said that there had been cutting on the corner of Shaker and Old Shaker Roads on Tony Merullo's property, and possibly within the area that Tony had agreed with the commission not to cut. Julie explained that the agreement was there would be no cutting within 75' of the brook or in the area at the back where there is a steep slope. Julie or Dan would take a ride out to determine if cutting had taken place in areas that had been agreed to be kept as no-cut zones.

The commission unanimously approved the minutes of the April meeting on a motion made by Colin.

Cynthia Balcius, representing NH Speedway, Inc., presented a permit by notification to replace a culvert at the race track. It had apparently rusted out due to age, as part of the parking area and road collapsed into during the last storm. The Speedway wanted to get it repaired immediately in time for the upcoming races. Two 48' culverts would be put in for an almost 100' stretch. Gus Meadow Brook actually runs under the track. Julie asked if the Speedway had considered replacing the culverts with an open bottom culvert. Cindy indicated that that would be her advice, but did not anticipate replacing the repair in the near future if it works. Julie planned to draft a memo indicating that the commission preferred to have the permanent replacement be an open bottom culvert to accompany the permit, which she would sign later during the week.

Joshua Brien, representing Peter Schauer (who was also present), showed the commission its plan to put in a pond at Peter's property on Cross Brook Road. The permit application submitted to DES proposes a 19,609 square foot pond in a wetland, which is just below the 20,000 square foot threshold, which is a major impact requiring public hearings. Joshua explained that a wetland system extends across the back of Peter's 32 acres. The plan is to put a pond in that would be about 14' at its deepest and impact half wetlands, half uplands. The pond would be scenic, recreational (stocked with fish) and for irrigation. There is ample ground water to feed the proposed pond, and the plan called for lots of plantings near the outlet to create a shaded spawning area for fish. No access road would need to be built and the impact to trees would be minimal. The commission decided to take a site walk on Tuesday, May 15 at 6 a.m., and suggested Peter look into federal grants available for constructing irrigation ponds.

Jess gave the planning board update, which was that no site walk had been scheduled for the Rattee property because the wetlands application was not in yet.

Julie gave an update on the Davies' property project. The survey was done, the purchase and sale agreement was signed, the easement language was finalized, the soil survey was complete and the appraisal was almost done.

Julie suggested that a protocol was needed for acquiring conservation land as a lot of time went into this project because of the quick deadline, although it typically takes about 2 years for an acquisition using federal money to come together. She added that the legal fees were costing more than anticipated.

The commission discussed briefly the notion of an agricultural commission, and how agricultural goals might be pursued in conjunction with the conservation commission goals.

Julie reported that with regard to monitoring existing conservation lands, Chris Kane's proposal is just too much money. She suggested hiring an intern for the summer, and Colin suggested that he would be able to do some monitoring.

With the business for the evening complete, the commission adjourned.