

Loudon Conservation Commission
March 14, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Bob Butler, Dan Geiger, Jess Storey and Colin Cabot were in attendance.

The meeting began by reviewing the minutes of the February meeting and approving them with two revisions.

Mrs. Mott-Smith of the Carbon Coalition asked the commission to stand up in support of Article 5 at the Town Meeting (scheduled for the following Saturday). Article 5 is a petition article to request action in Washington, D.C. to reverse global warming and to encourage local action to lower carbon emissions. Colin moved that the commission endorse Article 5 for the Town Meeting; Jess seconded. All voted in favor. [Note: Article 5 passed at Town Meeting.]

The commission also has a warrant article (#6) at Town Meeting in order to appropriate existing commission funds to purchase a conservation easement on the Davies' property. Colin said that he would obtain a copy of the purchase and sale agreement from the town attorney. Jess said that she would speak about the article at Town Meeting. [Note: Article 6 passed at Town Meeting.]

Chris Kane submitted a proposal to Julie by email for monitoring conservation properties. It was very detailed and rather expensive. The commission estimated it would take 15 days to walk the properties at the price quoted and thought the LCIP properties, at least, could be accomplished in two to three days. Bob reported that Julie planned to talk with Chris about a daily rate for simply walking some properties, rather than providing a significant amount of organizational aid. The commission noted that the cost of the monitoring would be lower in future years, but not low enough that the selectmen would be likely to contribute money to it. It was noted that one of the things included in the dollar amount is confrontations with landowners when conservation restrictions are not being followed.

Dan was scheduled to attend the planning board meeting the following night.

Polly Touzin asked the commission to reconsider its February decision not to increase the donation to the Clough Pond Association from \$500 to \$1000. She explained that many people spend long hours at Clough Pond to keep it free of invasive species, and that they had a save when they found milfoil. She said that should be rewarded. She also said that if other pond associations were making similar efforts, they should be given more money. The commission discussed the number of other pond associations in town and decided that if other pond associations did come forward to request more funding, the commission would re-address the allocation then. Colin made a motion to raise the commission's contribution to Clough Pond Association to \$1000 to recognize its efforts. Dan seconded. All voted in favor.

Copies of the proposed watershed protection ordinance, which was drafted by the Clough Pond Association, and first provided to the commission at its February meeting, were distributed to the members to review for the April meeting. Polly explained that samples of watershed protection ordinances from other towns had been used and tweaked for Loudon and that the goal was to make the conservation commission more powerful.

Finally, Colin noted that the current zoning ordinance does not permit off-the-grid windmills because of height restrictions.

The commission's next meeting is April 11 (the 2nd Wednesday) at 6 p.m. in Charlie's Barn.