

**Woodstock Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 28, 2009**

Members present: A. Colt, S. Dwyer, J. Pillo, L. Wesler, E. Zimmerman

Public Present: D. Adiletta, K. Kuper, others including a student

- Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. Pillo moved to modify the agenda to include a discussion of the proposed cell tower on the Rich property on Prospect Street. Passed unanimously.
- Approval / amendment of minutes: There was no quorum at the November 2009 meeting, thus no minutes. The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. Wesler moved to approve, Dwyer seconded, all approved, except Zimmerman who abstained as she was not in attendance at the October meeting.
- Treasurer's Report: Pillo reviewed. \$150 went to the Last Green Valley, \$175 to CACIWIC. Remaining balance \$689. *ACTION:* Colt to submit receipt for reimbursement for attendance at CACIWIC conference (\$40.)
- Communications, reading of/actions on:
 - A cell tower application was received from Robinson & Cole (in lieu of the previously proposed tower on Child Dome Road.) Kuper (abutter) expressed concern about visibility and proximity to open space on his parents' land and house lots set aside when they sold their development rights. Kuper estimated the proposed location would be about 100 feet from the house lots, which would make it almost impossible to sell. He also noted that the proposed location is considered very scenic. Photos and simulations in the application were reviewed. Kuper said he saw a balloon flying very low, but was not notified of the flight; members noted that another balloon may be flown on a later date after notice. Kuper indicated that Harmon was also interested in siting a cell tower on his property, and it might be less visible there. Apparently the application has not gone before the Siting Council yet. Pillo and others mentioned that Kuper should also contact the town cell tower committee. Pillo wondered whether it would be visible from the Woodstock Academy dining hall, which is another scenic vista. The application will be reviewed at the next CC Development Review Committee meeting scheduled for January 12.
 - Adiletta of the OSLAC Committee notified the CC that the Neski application for open space has been approved by the State, for 41.4 acres off of Barlow Cemetery Road. Three acres would remain for a house lot. The Town of Woodstock's contribution would be \$2415 per acre, for a total of \$100,000. The fund has approximately \$425,000 in it. The Town Meeting (which has to be a referendum due to the amount) has not been scheduled yet, but Adiletta will discuss it at the Board of Selectman meeting on 1/07/2010. Pillo complimented OSLAC on their effort and endurance. Pillo and Adiletta also noted that The New Roxbury Land Trust recently closed on a parcel over in southwest Woodstock near Crystal Pond. *ACTION:* Adiletta to contact J. Stefanik to provide information on the property for posting on the Town website by Zimmerman. *ACTION:* Pillo will update open space parcel map, but her availability is limited.
- **Old Business:**
 - Development Review Committee Report: No meeting held in November 2009.
 - OSLA&APC report: See above.
 - Conservation Easement project update: No report.
 - Forestry Report: No report.
 - PoCD update: Pillo is meeting with Fey on sustainability development.
 - Co-occurring Resource Analysis: Pillo continues to work on this with M. Atschul. In April, the Thames River Basin Partnership will sponsor a presentation by the COGs on data

- availability and how it could be used.
- Agvocate program: Adiletta mentioned that an Agvocate meeting was held in Canterbury, and attendees were very impressive and enthusiastic. The six towns involved (Lebanon, Sterling, Thompson, Ashford, Canterbury and Franklin) have accomplished a lot, and recently received a grant to expand to include five more towns. Adiletta will ask the Board of Selectman to apply. Members indicated they thought this would be a good thing. Adiletta noted that the Town would need a representative, and probably a town-level steering committee. *ACTION*: Pillo to ask J. Kaufman what is involved, and follow-up with Adiletta.
- Open Space inventory update: See above
- Need to outline potential conservation targets: No report.
- GPS exercise on “Green Road” parcel – set up time: To be rescheduled.
- **New Business:**
 - Annual Report: Assigned to Jacobsen. *ACTION*: Zimmerman to request last year’s report from Jacobsen in order to post it on Town website.
 - Open discussion:
 - Pillo discussed potential impact of CTDEP proposed stream flow regulations (which will establish minimum stream flow requirements to maintain habitat for aquatic life) going to public hearing on January 21. They may restrict development (especially sewer line expansion) if the Little River stream flow has to be maintained year round. Pillo mentioned that the Town of Putnam is seeking another source of drinking water. A meeting will be held on 01/19/2010 at the Mansfield Library at 9:30 a.m. on this subject.
 - Zimmerman mentioned that a Bald Eagle has been seen this fall, hunting Canada Geese at Roseland Lake. Frank Mclean, who lives next to Keech Pond reported to Pillo seeing 3 bald eagles (2 adults and a juvenile) at Keech Pond in November. Zimmerman noted that no nesting pairs have been found in Windham County. On Thanksgiving day, an adult bald eagle was photographed on Witches Woods Lake. *ACTION*: Pillo to get date on upcoming (January 9) Last Green Valley Quinebaug River Eagle Watch to share with any CC members interested in participating.
 - Upcoming workshops/workshop summaries: No report.
- Pillo moved to adjourn at 8:47, seconded by Wesler, meeting adjourned.

NOTE: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Conservation Commission. Please refer to minutes from the next meeting for approval/amendments.

Respectfully submitted by E. Zimmerman