

## **Woodstock Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** June 23, 2008

**Place:** Woodstock Town Hall

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Members Present:** Medora Fraga, James Graham, Bill Loftus (arrived after budget discussion), Jean Pillo, Lee Wesler, Bet Zimmerman. No alternates to seat. Members of the public present: none

**Minutes:** Approved unanimously, with an amendment under Treasurer's Report, noting discussion of reimbursement for purchase of software for displaying photos on Conservation Commission website.

### **Treasurers Report:**

- Fraga provided details of the passport account which has the grant funding for the Vernal Pools Inventory in it. Due to charges from the Audubon Society, a little additional funding will be needed to cover FY expenses. Pillo approved \$50.00 from FY08 budget to cover the overrun for the grant. \$95 was spent to cover Project VII photo album software for Conservation Commission website. Fraga indicated a \$50 cash gift was received and deposited in the passbook.
- Last month's minutes indicated we would reserve funding for signage for Roseland Park, but we not ready to order it yet, so can not escrow that money.
- **ACTION:** Fraga will request for receipt from Hartland pertaining to GPS class, which Pillo thought would be held in June or July.
- New budget will be discussed at next meeting due to budget referendum vote on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Communications:**

- Christine French notified the WCC she has not received minutes for some meetings. Pillo and Hartland rectified all but meetings on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (working meeting to revise A Plan of Open Space and Conservation) and January 2007 minutes, which are not available.
- Witches Woods Dam, Low Level Outlet Structure Replacement has received a permit to commence permitted activities within the bounds of permit no. DS-200800533.
- Franklin Landfill of Windham County has asked for a volunteer to discuss creating a consortium of Windham County Conservation Commissions to address issues affecting the region. **ACTION:** Wesler noted that this is consistent with A Plan of Open Space and Conservation, and offered to contact the letter writer.
- James Graham was confirmed by the Board of Selectman as a member of the Conservation Commission.

### **Review Role of Conservation Commission:**

Pillo reviewed the Conservation Commission's Handbook and responsibilities of members. Concerns were raised by Zimmerman about limited resources and the need to prioritize activities. **ACTION:** Loftus volunteered to have copies made at Town Hall for members who do not have them.

### **Old Business:**

- **Development Review Committee:** no action, as no new proposals were ready for review as of last scheduled meeting. Zimmerman asked Pillo whether Conservation Commission request for an Environmental Review Team evaluation of the Woodstock Academy playing fields was acted on; Pillo

- said she believed it was not, and it was too late now as public hearing is scheduled to close on June 26.
- **OSLAC Report:** no report, as Very was not present. Pillo had contacted Very to request an update. Zimmerman mentioned that website committee will be working with OSLAC secretary to help get their minutes online.
  - **Open Space Inventory:** Discussion of finding an intern or part time hire to update the inventory. Intern will need to create spreadsheet containing lot #s, block #s and map #s. **ACTION:** Loftus volunteered to try to find recruit (perhaps a high school or college student or Eagle Scout.) A volunteer will need some training. **ACTION:** Zimmerman offered to generate spreadsheet of existing data.
  - **GIS Mapping:** Pillo explains that NRCS maps are available on-line, but also discussed the need to update WCC's own maps.
  - **Town Held Conservation Easements:** Hartland absent, no report.
  - **Town Owned Land (Forestry):** no report. **ACTION:** Graham volunteered to follow up with Wilbur/Pillo/Steve Broderick to take on this task, with help from Fraga.
  - **Website Updates:** Zimmerman reported that updates (e.g., member list, news) have been made, and that she would post Help Wanted on the news page (complete.)
  - **Celebrate Agriculture Day:** Pillo discussed the need for volunteers to meet prepare displays and handouts. Themes discussed for the day included vernal pools, renewable energy, new technology being used by farmers, etc. **ACTION:** Need volunteers to cover WCC booth for 9-11 and 1-3 time slots (Zimmerman volunteered for 11-1 time slot.
  - **Trails Inventory:** tabled.
  - **Watershed Signage:** tabled.
  - **Vernal Pools:** A high quality vernal pool was inventoried on Pulpit Rock Road (Rappaport property.)
  - **Review and Update of APOSC:** Jean discussed continuing to work on updates to A Plan of Open Space and Conservation. Zimmerman suggested continuing with working meetings on alternate months. **ACTION:** Fraga to look for hard copies of Hartland's updates, as electronic copies were lost when her computer crashed.

#### **New Business:**

- Discussion of Paul Wilbur's retirement party at Reva Seybolt's home on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> of June. Pillo called for \$50.00 from the budget for gift. **ACTION:** Zimmerman to pick up gift certificate from Sprucedale Gardens.
- Nominations for replacement chairperson will be on hold for the time being.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Graham

*These minutes may be amended at the next Conservation Commission meeting.*