

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
December 20, 2006
Meeting Minutes (final - approved)**

Present: Laura Alexander, Dan Allen, Dale Conly, Bob Crane, Emma Crane, Vicki Koron, Les Norman, Peter Stanley, Ruth White

Guests: Shaun Lagueux, Ned Swanberg, Paul Muller

Meeting was called to order by Les Norman at 1:00 p.m.

- 1) Minutes of November meeting were unanimously approved.
- 2) Mr. Shaun Lagueux of New England Forestry Consultants:
 - a) Representing Mary Ellen Alger of Pleasant Lake. Timber sale on lot size of 24.9 acres Lake Shore Drive and Pingree Road, New London. Wet lands permit has been filed. Little impact as possible on trails. There will be a clean turn around for a large truck.
 - b) Representing Lynch property.
 - i) Timber sale with wet land permit good until 2008. Presently waiting for cold weather.
 - ii) Davis Path The issue here is the area the path crosses on Lynch Property. It has been suggested that there be a property swap. Refer to the map provided. They would like to see a change of right away at the property bound. The deed would have to be rewritten at the owners cost. The size of the swap is approximately, 1 acre to 11 acres. The quality of the land is not equal. We are giving up property that is not considered good forest bed. The Conservation Commission is suggesting; a 50' buffer off the center of the trail and a conservation easement on the property we are swapping. There was a motion made by Dan Allen, and seconded by Ruth White.
- 3) Ned Swanberg of New Hampshire Audubon Conservation Services. He introduced himself and the services they will now be providing in our area. Some of which are site assessment and research services for land protection, habitat restoration, and conservation-minded development. This program is new for the Upper Valley. They would like to bridge conservations groups to the larger community.
- 4) Paul Muller, a doctoral candidate from Dartmouth, would like permission to go in to the bog to study pitcher plants. He would be going into the bog 3 to 5 times a week and setting up video equipment, most likely off the mat in several different areas.. Our concerns are with his safety and protecting the sphagnum mat. We are encouraging him to do the work from the boardwalk. It was suggested that he go to the bog with some of us and see the possibilities of the site. Laura, Emma, Ruth and Vicki would be available for this visit.

- 5) Vicki Koron gave us a report on the distribution of the town footpaths maps. As of this date there are 285 in circulation, with more than half going to Morgan Hill Bookstore. The maps are also available at the library, Village Sports, the town hall and the information booth. Laura suggested Hogan Sports Center as another possibility.
- 6) Trail reports:
 - a) Dan Allen reported that he has replaced 3 sections of the board walk at the bog and proposes something similar for the entire bog. As far as the outflow stream to the bog, Peter and Dan will walk up the stream to check the condition of the stream and see if debris has been built up in the channel.
 - b) Ruth White discussed the Lyon Brook Trail and the small trees across the trail. Peter Stanley noted that further down this trail it will be impacted when the lagoons are being filled. It was noted that there is an alternate trail above this portion that can be used.
 - c) Bob Crane reported that Greg Berger has talked to Bob Messer about the trail behind Spring Ledge Farm continuing on to the Messer property. There was a positive reply.
 - d) Town Center Trails: a short discussion on our mission of conservation and recreational programs outside the Commissions work. Les will talk to Chad and Jesse about these trails.
 - e) Easement Monitoring: Emma and Bob Crane reported that all the easements have been monitored with the exception of the trail behind the Middle School. That will be completed as soon as it is dry enough. The reports are filed with the state, town, landowner, and the conservation commission. There are 11 properties.
- 7) Other Business:
 - a) Ian Prohl, a Kearsarge high school student has sent a memo offering to help with outdoor projects. He has some free time during the rest of this school year. Les will get back to him on some options.
 - b) Winter Walks: Ruth White let this discussion.
 - Feb. 3rd Sat. Duck Boxes - Ruth White
 - Feb. 7th Wed. Lagoons - TBA
 - Feb. 14th Wed. Great Brook Trail - Dan Allen
 - Feb. 21st Wed. Cook Trail-Trees - Laura AlexanderAll walks will start at 9:00 am.
 - c) The Banks Gallery will be showing paintings of and from the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. The opening will be January 7th 12-6pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm

Submitted by Vicki Koron
Conservation Commission