

**Town of New London
Conservation Commission**

Minutes of February 21, 2007

APPROVED

Present: Dale Conly, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron, Les Norman, Peter Stanley and Ruth White.

Guest(s): Eric Schultz

Meeting was called to order by Les Norman at 1:03 p.m.

1. Minutes of the January 17th meeting were approved unanimously.
2. Schultz Property (Map-107, Lot-017): Peter Stanley handed out a packet with information regarding the Schultz property. Eric Schultz discussed previous conversations with Peter Stanley about his parcel around Clark Pond and noted that the parcel was in current use. Discussion ensued about the tax advantages and capital gain when selling parcel. The commission agreed that the goal is to preserve Clark Pond. Discussion followed about other parcels surrounding Clark Pond. Peter Stanley stated that Clark Pond is currently the only undeveloped water body in town. It was made known that it is too late to propose the purchase for the 2007 Town Meeting. A timeline for the purchase of the parcel was outlined along with a discussion on the survey points. Eric Schultz confirmed he could find two points on the parcel, the others he has not found. Peter Stanley made a motion that the conservation commission support the concept of acquiring a portion of the Schultz property after further discussion with the Board of Selectmen. Terry Dancy seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously. Discussion continued about the possibility of trails and access to the pond.
3. Messer Pond: Peter Stanley notified the commission that the parking lot at Messer Pond needs some attention. The matter will be discussed with Richard Lee, Road Agent, for the use of highway equipment.
4. Duck Boxes: The Duck Boxes in the Low Plain need to be cleaned and the roofs need to be closed. Peter Stanley will have access to snowmobiles this weekend and will try to get down there to clean them out and close the roofs.
5. Winter Walks: Ruth White state that they were not heavily attended this year, possibly due to the weather. Ruth White proposed three options: 1) Not doing the Winter Walks next year, 2) Do them anyway as they are great publicity for the Conservation Commission, or 3) Wait until the Spring Walks to make a formal decision.

6. Lynch Property (Map-100, Lot-002): It was brought to the commissions' attention that there was a dispute with a citizen and a logger at the Lynch Property. It is believed that the dispute will not jeopardize the deal between the Conservation Commission and the property owner. Discussion of the presentation at Town Meeting followed. Commission members want to make sure that the commission thinks through what they say before saying anything.

7. Lagoon & Low Plains: Peter Stanley discussed a conversation with Jessie Levine, Town Administrator. She asked about using Pierre Bedard to do the surveying of the Lagoon Property and the Low Plains. Conservation Commission had no opposition of using Pierre Bedard.

8. House Bill #565: Peter Stanley discussed the proposed bill which would abolish trapping of any kind. He stated that he had asked the Board of Selectmen if he could represent them in opposition at the hearing tomorrow. They said yes, but wanted him to approach the commission about the bill as well. Discussion ensued about the specifics of the bill and different kinds of traps. The conservation commission instructed Peter Stanley to oppose the bill at the hearing. They also advised that if the legislature changes the bill to allow conifer traps the conservation commission may support the bill.

9. Town Meeting: Les Norman discussed the proposed conservation commission budget for the 2007 Town Meeting. Discussion followed about all presentations at Town Meeting.

10. Low Plains: Peter Stanley brought the idea of a conservation easement on the rest of the low plain area. The commission thought it would be beneficial to have the conservation easement in the name of the Fish & Game Department who currently holds the easement on the rest of the area. Peter Stanley, Les Norman and Terry Dancy will attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 5th to discuss the area and the Schultz property.

11. Eian Proh: Peter Stanley advised the commission that he had met with Eian to discuss projects for his involvement.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Submitted by Kelsie Lee