

Litchfield Conservation Commission

June 4, 2009

7:00 p.m. Town Hall

2 Liberty Way

Minutes Approved 7/9/09

Members Present: Joan McKibben, Chairman
Tom Levesque
Sharon Jones
Marion Godzik
Roger St. Laurent
Richard Husband – Alternate
Stephen Tarara – Alternate

Absent: Andy Santom, Selectmen's Rep
Ray Peeples

Called to order 7:05 PM

Chairman Joan McKibben appointed Richard Husband to the open seat for the meeting.

Public in attendance – 5 members of Bishop Guertin H. S. Civics Class who were assigned to attend a Town Meeting.

Items Discussed:

- 1. Map 13 Lot 70** – Mike Morrison from Municipal Pest Control to discuss application for grant money from (NHDES) NH Dept. of Environmental Services. Joan McKibben received correspondence from Lori Sommer at NHDES regarding grant application info for a new very unique program for the Merrimack River Watershed – Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program (ARM) for control of an early colony of Phragmites in the 22 acre marsh at Map 13 Lot 70 (off Albuquerque) Town owned property. This is the first property that is open for funding. There is \$650,000. available for eligible projects in the ARM fund. Phragmites is a very invasive and very common plant that grows in sunny wetland habitats. Phragmites grows 12-15' tall, it grows all over the world. This marsh contains Phragmites as well as Purple Loosestrife which is also very invasive. There have been 4 large colonies of Phragmites found at this property, and it is a very aggressive form. Phragmites also contributes to mosquito problems. To eradicate the Phragmites they would use an EPA registered herbicide glyphosphate a/k/a Rodeo, this plant cannot be

picked, the herbicide would have to be applied to each individual stem, cannot be sprayed, it is a wiper application, it is a very intricate procedure, and will kill any other plant it may come in contact with. The water quality impacts of applying glyphosphate are minimal. Tests reveal it is virtually non-toxic to all aquatic animals.

It biodegrades quickly and completely into natural products, including carbon dioxide, nitrogen, phosphate, and water.

Studies show it can be used without posing unreasonable risks to people or the environment. Department of Agriculture along with DES would have to approve Rodeo application. 2 years after the application is applied and what's left gets 'mopped' up.

They plan on picking the Purple Loosestrife if that area is chosen for the grant. A floristic study of the site will be done and they will inventory what the findings are. If left untreated it could take over the entire site completely in 10-15 years. The project would include a proposed 40' new pond on the upland edge. Army Corps of Engineers likes to encourage new wetlands because they are all drying up. LCC will monitor the site and propose what monitored plan LCC wants in place. The next watershed looked at will be in 6 months - Winnepesaukee.

NRCS contacted Mike Morrison they are going to go out and look at the site as well, they may perhaps contribute funds to the project.

There is a 10 person panel that will decide what sites receive the grants, then it will go all the way to the Governor. Joan McKibben Motions for Mike Morrison to apply to the grant application and LCC to be lead contact on the project, Tom Levesque 2nd the Motion, all in favor Roll Call Vote Motion Passes 6-0-0.

2. **Map 12, Lot 18, 19, & 21** – Water collection across from Cutler Library Town & State owned land. Kevin Lynch, Code Enforcement in attendance to address the issue. Kevin states there was an old cellar hole (former Savini house) the land was plowed and the embankment cut to have river access, a pipe was installed for drainage. Kevin is going to look at the area to see if that's what kept it dry in the past., perhaps the invert was bothered and that's what is causing the issue. The past three years have not been average as far as rain/snow fall. Kevin Lynch will keep LCC posted on the situation.

Map 12 Lot 12 – Kevin Lynch here to ask LCC permission to work on the Conservation Property near the Muster Field (on Rte 3A) to open it up, to the south of the kiosk, maybe a picnic area/walking area. LCC in agreement.

3. **Priority pieces for Open Space, June 9** next meeting. LCC had listed 6 critical pieces in a previous study in 2004 and Joan McKibben does not want to discount those properties. They are 1.) Watts Brook Map 23 Lot 16, 2.) The Farmland Properties, 3.) Weinstein Lot/Chase Brook Corridor, 4.) Map 12 Lot 25, behind Library, 5.) Land on Colonial Drive Map 17, Lots 1 &3 and 6.) Half Moon Pond.
4. **CHS Sophomore student Nick Oberti** – has continued to volunteer for the Town after working with Richard Husband on placement of signs on conservation areas. Nick has been working with Joan McKibben and Kevin Lynch on cleaning up and brushing out areas at Darrah Pond. He has also picked

up litter on the frontage of our Page Road property (Map 5 Lot 196). Nick may be doing some work at the Must Field on Rte. 3A across from the old town hall.

5. **Sophomore** – Joan McKibben has met another soon to be sophomore student who may be interested in some community service tasks this summer or fall.
6. **Fishing Derby** – 27th Annual Fishing Derby was held on May 9, 2009, approximately 75 children signed in. Thank you note sent to Gene Ducharme on a flyer for this years derby. Suggestions for next year, Sharon Jones spoke to Trout Unlimited who would be willing to come to the derby and instruct the kids how to fish, how to handle the fish etc. LCC to set fishing derby date at September meeting to pass on to Trout Unlimited who suspends meetings for the summer. New fishing signs needed as well.
7. **Map 4, Lots 24 & 25** – 137 Page Road complaint sent in by code enforcement to Eric Skoglund from NH DES, he has investigated and a Letter of Deficiency, WET 09-015 DES File 2009-00560 was sent to property owners (Lot 24 Mark Ducharme and Lot 25 Stephen Ducharme) dated 5/27/09 from NHDES. DES has no record of a permit being filed for the work that was done. Over 7,616' area was dredged/filled. DES is requiring property owners to hire a qualified wetlands scientist and to file a restoration plan with dimensions drawn to scale showing existing conditions with wetlands boundary , property conditions after re-establishing the jurisdictional areas, detailed description for proposed plant stabilization, means of erosion control and silt fencing.
8. **Map 2, Lot 128** –Cutler Road - June 10, 2009 next ZBA Meeting. Joan McKibben accompanied Tracy Tarr on June 2, 2009 at the property, they walked in on 'proposed' driveway, 1st vernal pool on the left wood frogs and tad poles present. A 2nd vernal pool was found which also contained wood frogs and green frog tadpoles. Previously seen on the property and recorded was a hog nose snake which is an endangered species, Kathy Messer property abutter has pictures. Report from Tracy Tarr should be to ConCom by Monday June 8, 2009.
9. **Conservation Properties** – Chairman Joan McKibben would like everyone to take a least one property that the ConCom oversees, and be a 'caretaker' of that area, ie; Concom member would visit the site at least 2X' per year to give status of the property condition, make suggestions for use, report any violations on use and pick up any liter found. In the future ConCom to work on management plans for each piece that the ConCom oversees. The following is the properties and 'caretakers' – a.) Moore's Falls – Roger St. Laurent, b.) Page Road Map 5 Lots 136, 147, 196 and 150 – Sharon Jones, c.) Muster Fields Map 12 Lot 12 – Tom Levesque, d.) Map 12 Lot 23 north and behind library –Richard Husband/Joan McKibben/Stephen Tarara, e.) Map 12 Lot 25, recently purchased 50 +/- acres Library lot/Albuquerque Ave., - unassigned, f.) Garden Drive Fen – Marion Godzik, g.) Grassy Pond - management agreement with the State of NH – Joan McKibben/Stephen Tarara.
10. **Composting Flyer** – ConCom volunteer or other volunteer to make up a flyer about backyard composting that can be distributed at the incinerator, library and Town Hall. – Marion Godzik volunteered.
11. **Green Info** - volunteer needed to research 'green' info for Funway Park (Mel's) they contacted Joan McKibben looking for info, she told them to look at National Audobon Website and golf course websites. – Sharon Jones volunteered.

12. Public Service announcements – volunteer needed to send public service announcements to the cable committee from the Conservation Commission about topics such as, composting, water usage (when it is most efficient to water), trails around town, what to do if you come across wildlife, etc.

Any Other Business/Correspondence

Budget received dated 5/29/09, Selectmen have moved funds (\$1,000.) into the ConCom budget for assessment on Cutler Road, Map 2 Lot 128.

Tickler File – Sharon Jones to set tickler file for September for ConCom to set fishing derby date so that she can contact Trout Unlimited about coming to instruct the kids for the 2010 fishing derby, new signs for the fishing derby and a site walk for the ConCom.

Tom Levesque Motioned to accept 5/7/09 Minutes as corrected, Roger St. Laurent 2nd, Motion carries 5-0-1.

RSA 91-A:3 II (c.) NON-PUBLIC SESSION – Minutes Tom Levesque Motioned to accept as written and kept private until it is resolved, Sharon Jones 2nds Motion carries 5-0-1

Joan McKibben Motioned to accept 5/18/09 Minutes as written, Richard Husband 2nds the Motion, Motions carries 4-0-2.

Darrah Pond – catch basin full of big rocks, rip rap around the edge trying to get the water to go down the catch basin, Joan McKibben states they have finish taking trees down there but Roger St. Laurent saw Asplund (tree removal company) there with their chipper their working the past 3 days. Joan McKibben to speak to Kevin Lynch about it.

Next Meeting(s): 7-9-09

Roger St. Laurent Motioned to adjourn at 9:04 PM, Tom Levesque 2nd. Roll Call Vote 7-0-0.

Submitted by: Sharon M. Jones, Secretary