

Hebron Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting 4/18/07

Members Present: Bruce Barnard (chairman pro tem), Roger LaFontaine, Martha Twombly, Suzanne Smith (alternate) and Sheila Oranch (alternate & secretary)

Absent: David Goldthwaite, Ed Gempka (alternate) and Travis Austin

Others Present: none

Time Convened: 7:07 PM **Time Adjourned:** 9:12 PM **Next Meeting:** 5/23/07

AGENDA:

I. ADMINISTRATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (A.) Welcome new members and alternates
- (B.) Update agenda

II. OLD BUSINESS

- (A.) Review Minutes of previous meeting 3/28/07

III. NEW BUSINESS

- (A.) Elect Chairman
- (B.) Brain Storm Hebron Wetlands
- (C.) Correspondence and Information
- (D.) Adjournment by 9:30 PM

ADMINISTRATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Barnard said that the meeting notice was posted at the Selectmen's office, Town Clerk's Office, Hebron Post Office, and Hebron Village Store. He welcomed new alternate members Suzanne Smith and Sheila Oranch. He asked Suzanne to step up to voting member for David Goldthwaite. He updated the agenda to put elections before other new business.

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes of 3/28/07 were reviewed and corrected. Roger LaFontaine moved that the minutes be approved as corrected, Martha Twombly seconded. PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

Elections

Bruce Barnard declared that he would not be a candidate for chairman. He explained that RSA 36:A.3 states that it is permissible for a selectman to be a member and/or officer of a conservation commission—each kind of municipal body has its specific regulations. However, he felt he could be more productive as a member and chose not to seek office. Bruce also reported that he had consulted with the NH Municipal Association, a function of the NH Local Government Center, about various issues. The Town of Hebron belongs to NHMA so advice is free. NHMA tracks legislation in progress and state-wide issues. For the record, he had asked whether a person can

nominate him/herself for a Board office and they can. NHMA is also the source of the Town and City magazine for municipal boards. Sheila will request additional copies so all new board members can have their own copies.

Suzanne Smith nominated Martha Twombly for the position of chair, Roger LaFontaine seconded. PASSED

Speaking of resources, Martha said she had purchased copies of the **Handbook for New Hampshire's Municipal Conservation Commissions** © 2004 for all members. Bruce explained the reimbursement process. Martha also announced that NLRA is hosting a workshop at 6:30 PM on 4/23/07 and shared the event notice. All are welcome and the information will be relevant.

Wetlands

Martha reported on her research on wetlands management.

1. A final draft of suggested wetlands ordinance for the Planning Board is aimed for November, with a couple of public hearings to be held prior to that presentation as well as perhaps a couple of field trips with specialists to educate the board members and interested members of the public. Bruce noted that it is necessary to identify water, soils and plants for an area to qualify as a wetland.
2. The Conservation Commission had voted in February to nominate two areas in Hebron to be designated Prime Wetlands according to RSA 482.A. These were George Brook Bog and the mouth of the Cockermouth River in the Hebron Marsh area. There is a specific process for filing the nomination with the NH DES. Martha will obtain a sample from another town to use as a model. She gave a quick review of the assortment of resource materials available.
3. There was some discussion of proper procedures for handling Intent to Cut Timber filings and how to keep them with Town property records. This was followed by a discussion of types of permits and which agencies have what authority. Permits are required for roads, houses, wetlands, etc. The Town of Hebron adopted a RSA 155E Excavation ordinance at town meeting, to be permitted by the Planning Board. For timber cutting, operations must follow Best Management Practices, and a permit is required by NH DES if any wetlands are to be impacted. The Town of Hebron could obtain copies of the BMP handbooks and make them available to applicants when they are completing their paperwork. Bruce also noted that Building Permit instructions need to be updated to comply with new zoning ordinances and RSAs. Generally responsibilities fall into the three categories of rule-making, permitting and enforcement.
4. Wetland Buffers- Martha will email buffer documents and/or website links for reference.

Correspondence and Information

Received: a copy of the Wagner application for a perched beach, Hillside Inn's Standard Dredge and Fill application, and Richard /Linda Beyer's Wetlands application Tax Map18A/Lot 4.

Joe Homer was referenced as a conservation expert available from the extension service.

The IRS currently allows \$.485 per mile reimbursement rates for travel on Town business.

The date of the next meeting was set for 5/23/07 to accommodate schedules.

9:12 PM hearing no objections, Martha Twombly adjourned the meeting.