

Hebron Conservation Commission

Minutes

January 16, 2008

DRAFT

Members present: Martha Twombly, Chair, David Goldthwaite, Roger LaFontaine, Sheila Oranch, Ed Gempka, Alternate and Suzanne Smith, Alternate.

Also present was Jane Ramsay, secretary.

Members absent: Bruce Barnard and Travis Austin

Call to order 7:03 p.m. **Time of adjournment:** 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting: February 20, 2008 7 p.m.

Agenda items:

1. Administrative issues
2. Permits
3. Minutes from previous meetings
4. Alan Barnard discussion: Marking Hebron Town Forest Boundaries
5. WPOD changes and final public hearing January 28, 2008
6. Discussion of Town Forest Management Plan: process and elements
7. Other business

Chair Martha Twombly called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Alternate members, Suzanne Smith and Ed Gempka, were made regular voting members.

The minutes November 14, 2007 were reviewed. Suzanne Smith moved, seconded by David Goldthwaite to approve them. The motion passed.

The minutes from December 12, 2008 were reviewed. Ed Gempka moved, seconded by Suzanne to approve them. The motion was passed.

The minutes of the joint Public Hearing with the Planning Board on December 17, 2007 were reviewed. Roger LaFontaine moved, seconded by Suzanne Smith to approve them as written. The motion passed.

The minutes of the joint Public Hearing with the Planning Board on January 9, 2008 were reviewed. There was a correction on page 2. The number 10,00 square feet should read 10,000 square feet. On the last page, the words, "send them to Attorney Tim Bates for review," should be added following "changes made at this meeting." Roger LaFontaine moved, seconded by Suzanne Smith to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion passed.

Martha asked who would be able to attend the January 28, Public Hearing with the Planning Board on the WPOD. Martha cannot attend, but Suzanne, Sheila and Ed said they would be there.

Martha said she invited Alan Barnard to come to the meeting to discuss the boundary

markings for the Hebron Town Forest (former Esty land) but he had not responded. She said she may have been too late contacting him. She will ask him to come to the next meeting.

Martha asked how the public could be educated about the proposed WPOD and see the value of preserving the Town's wetlands. She asked if anyone had seen the article about the WPOD in the *Record Enterprise* newspaper. Several members had seen it, but they said had little feedback from others. Copies of the WPOD have been placed in offices in town, at the Post Office and store bulletin boards, and Ed said he had left one inside the store for people read.

Roger said a handout explaining the issues might not be a good idea because he felt too much jargon would turn people off. He suggested that members speak to people who have wetlands on their property and encourage them to ask questions. Martha will be at the Land Use Room before each meeting to discuss the WPOD and answer concerns.

It was asked what a "Taking" was. This term had been brought up at a recent ZBA meeting. Martha said a person who feels that regulations make his/her property unuseable can ask for economic relief. The property must be nearly all or completely unuseable and show a strong economic impact on the owner, but it rarely happens. David Goldthwaite explained the history of "Taking." He said it began about 25 years ago in the West when grazing rights were denied to cattlemen. He said that is no longer valid there, but the concept still remains.

The proposed new Braley Road Bridge was discussed. Sheila wanted to know if the periodic flooding might be good for the land along the Cockermouth River and a new bridge which would allow water to more freely would take more soil into Newfound Lake. David explained that there is a natural dam which was created when the vegetation near Hyer's house was allowed to grow up. He said a new bridge would allow more water to pass and would prevent flooding and erosion. Martha said she had received a letter from DES (Department of Environmental Services) saying it had her memo and suggesting the Army Corp of Engineers be contacted to see how the planned bridge would impact the water dynamics of the river. She said Bob Craycraft had recorded a spotted turtle in the area above the bridge.

Sheila asked about the dredging of the channel going into the Marina. She wanted to know where the dredged materials went. Ed explained that it was put on the banks of the channel. It has been a long time since the channel was dredged and it needs to be done again.

Martha showed 3 booklets that she will bring to the next meeting. One was written by David Goldthwaite about Fish in Newfound Lake. It was suggested there be a library of conservation related books in the land use room. If anyone can find a bookcase for that purpose, it would be appreciated.

The Commission discussed the marking of the boundary of the Town Forest. It will be done by paint on trees . There is \$4,200 set aside for the tightening up of the boundary lines and Alan Barnard has been hired to do it. The corners of the property have been well marked already.

The proposed parking area was discussed. Some thought it should be across the bridge and could be designated by the boulders taken from the river years ago and never put back. Others felt parking should be on the 60 foot wide strip of land leading from Groton Road to the property. The bridge should be closed off to vehicle traffic using posts that would allow people on foot (and possibly, horseback riders) through. A locked gate could be installed to allow emergency or maintenance vehicles through if necessary. The Conservation Easement signed by the Town of Hebron gives more information and Martha handed out pages 6 and 7 for the group to read.

Martha told the Commission about a possible 20,000 acre conservation easement to the Society for the Protection of NH Forests which would go north 6 miles from the Cockermouth Forest in Groton to Rumney. Part of the money for the easement is to come from the Federal Government. She will bring a map showing how the proposed plan will fit in with other protected properties in the area.

Martha suggested that members look up the Vermont Family Forest (www.VFF.org) to see what elements should be considered in a management plan. Some of the elements include a history of the area, wildlife survey, recommendations for future, the value of timber on the property, growth expectations, amount of cutting, access for loggers, type of logging methods allowed, and the hiring of professionals and foresters.

David Goldthwaite made a motion, seconded by Suzanne Smith, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Jane Ramsay, Secretary