

**Alton Conservation Commission Approved by the Conservation Commission 5-24-07
Minutes of May 10, 2007**

Members Present: Justine Gengras, Roger Burgess, David Lawrence, Gene Young, Tom Hoopes, and Earl Bagley

Members Absent: Steve McMahon as Selectman's Representative

Others Present:

Call Meeting to Order:

Co-Chairman E. Bagley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by D. Lawrence and seconded by G. Young to amend the agenda and include under to include under Commissioner Reports – D. Lawrence Warrant Articles for 2008 and to include under Correspondence – E-mail letter Re: Dobbins Brook (Finnegan Subdivision) and Archaeological Survey for Map 9 Lot 53 Prospect Mountain Builders. The motion passed with all in favor.

Public Input:

None at this time

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of minutes from April 26, 2007 meeting.

Motion made by D. Lawrence to accept the minutes with changes second by R. Burgess. The motion passed with all in favor.

Presentations/Consultations:

None at this time

Planning Board Agenda Item:

None at this time

Standard Dredge and Fill Applications:

1. Benjamin Finnegan Map 6 Lot 37 – Request to impact a total of 9,031 sq. ft. of wetlands to access upland areas and construct a subdivision road and driveways associated with residential development for this proposed 15-Lot subdivision.

Present for the site walk: Earl Bagley, Justine Gengras, Gene Young, David Lawrence, and Tom Hoopes for the Conservation Commission as well as the Planning Board. Also present were Cindy Balcius and Adam Doiron from New Hampshire Soils.

T. Hoopes stepped down.

The Commission had a site walk on May 10, 2007 at 5pm on the property. They feel that the culverts are too small for impacts 4 & 5 due to the width of bank overflow and wetlands associated with the streams. They also viewed impacts 1, 3, 6, & 7.

J. Gengras asked about detention ponds. Adam Doiron responded with that they are going to handle run-off with swales and not detention ponds.

J. Gengras also feels that the amount of old timber slash/logs lying in the wetlands associated with the logging road that leaves Valley Road, south of impact #6, diminishes the function of the wetlands. In addition a huge, broad area east of and abutting the current culvert in the perennial stream exhibited a water-scoured surface. It appeared that a new culvert and stone fill has recently been placed in the perennial stream for the logging road. No siltation or erosion controls were present. A nearby tributary for the main stream exhibited significant erosion where a 12" culvert failed.

In reference to the e-mail from Anthony Tur an Endangered Species Biologist to New Hampshire Soils who found no small whorled pogonia at the site, the Commission noted that the absence of the small whorled pogonia would be expected, given that the inspection was conducted at a time of year when the plant has not even emerged.

Since Alton has experienced two 100-year storms in the last year, the Planning Board should impose a requirement for larger culverts than are presently specified for the project.

Several lots have upland areas separated by wetlands, making it likely that the owners will put fill in the wetlands to facilitate access. Explicit restrictions should be imposed to prevent damage to those wetlands.

Motion made by J. Gengras to continue until the next meeting and designate J. Gengras to bring in a draft comment for review by the Commission at the next meeting, seconded by G. Young. Motion passed with all in favor.

2. Greg Vickowski map 42 Lot 12 – Remove 71' of existing mortar rubble masonry wall to high water mark and re-establish with rough cut stones landward of the reference line. Stabilize 12.5' of eroded bank, place stones in ledge cavity of 8' of shoreline.

Discussion:

The Commission reviewed the application and feels that a letter of no objection should be sent to NH DES with comments.

Motion made by J. Gengras to send a standard letter of no objection to NH DES with the following comments attached: The Commission does not object to the proposed project providing there is a condition that the proposed drainage swale behind the wall doesn't divert water onto the abutting property and create any adverse affects on the abutter and that the work should be done after draw down and not during full lake level, seconded by E. Bagley. Motion passed with all in favor.

Permit By Notification

1. Cindy Walker Map 44 Lot 55 – Repair an existing, permitted, piling supported dock and accessory structures "in-kind" with no change in size, location, or configuration, install a seasonal boatlift and two seasonal PWC lifts. – FYI – Commission signed 5/4/07
2. Elaine Milnor Map 59 Lot 12 – Replace 10 piling on existing structure. Impact 10 Sq. ft. – FYI - Commission signed 5/9/07.

Minimum Impact Expedited

1. John Teller Map 44 Lot 54 – Re-build U docks and crib with overhead deck, all previously permitted, destroyed by ice, re-build "in-kind". – FYI - Commission signed 3/22/07
2. Ronald Cima Map 21 Lot 30 – The proposed project involves the placement of one 57"x38"x20' pipe arch (squash culvert) in a seasonal stream to provide driveway access to an existing home. The amount of wetlands to be disturbed is 1280 sq. ft.

Discussion:

Motion made by J. Gengras to defer until the next meeting when research can be done on

**the property when then land was subdivided with restrictions, seconded by G. Young.
Motion passed with all in favor.**

3. Bonnie Dunbar Map 21 Lot 12 – To replace missing tie-off piling pulled out by ice using same piling which is submerged next to dock west side, impact 2 sq. ft. – FYI – Commission signed 5/8/07.

Commissioner Reports:

None at this time

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. J. Gengras – Goal & Objectives (ideas from the Commissioners)
 - ❖ Work more closely with the Planning Board
 - ❖ Generate a conservation land list for wetlands mitigation
 - ❖ Generate a list of Maps and Lots of property owners interested in placing land in conservation
 - ❖ Reblaze the boundaries of conservation lands
 - ❖ Install signage for conservation land
 - ❖ Send letter to the Trustees of Trust Funds regarding the Cough-Morrill Property at Trask Swamp
 - ❖ Work on Warrant Article to have the entire amount of the Current Use Conversion Tax Money placed in the Conservation Land fund
 - ❖ Have a Warrant Article for the Conservation Commission to manage the property the Town bought for \$10,000 at Trask Swamp
2. Easement walks with Steve Walker on May 21, 2007 at 2pm, meet at Town Hall - FYI

Correspondence:

1. The Source Newsletter - FYI
No action taken by the Commission
2. James Lund – Letter from NH DES application denial - FYI
No action taken by the Commission
3. Ronald Lefebvre Map 18 Lot 29-4 – Permit Approval - FYI
No action taken by the Commission
4. GSR Trust Map 58 Lot 5-19 – Permit Approval - FYI
The Commission reviewed a photo taken by the Code Enforcement Officer showing that heavy equipment has been run through the wetlands, which is supposed to be restored. The Commission requested that the photo be sent to the NH Wetlands Bureau, noting “This is not in our view an acceptable wetland restoration method.”
5. E-mail letter RE: Dobbins Brook (Finnegan Subdivision) - FYI
No action taken by the Commission
6. Archaeology Survey Map 9 Lot 53 – Prospect Mountain Builders - FYI
No action taken by the Commission

Adjournment:

Motion made by G. Young, second by J. Gengras to adjourn at 9:05pm. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Fortin
Secretary to the Conservation Commission