

**Alton Conservation Commission Approved by the Conservation Commission 7-13-06
Minutes of June 22, 2006**

Members Present: Co-Chair, Justine Gengras; Co-Chair, Earl Bagley; David Lawrence, Roger Burgess, Gene Young, Tom Hoopes, and Alan Sherwood as Selectmen's Representative

Members Absent:

Others Present: Robert Bystrack

Call Meeting to Order:

Co-Chairman J. Gengras called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by J. Gengras and seconded by D. Lawrence to include under Standard Dredge & Fill – Russell Scott Map 75 Lot 61, to include under Permit by Notification – Justin & Darlene Webster Map 73 Lot 21, Christian Camps & Conferences Map 18 Lot 28 And Carl Chamberlain Map 42 Lot 22, to include under Commission Reports – NSTS, Prospect Mountain High School, and Gilman Pond, to include under Other Business –Parkhurst Easement, and to include under Correspondence – Gray Subdivision Site Specific, John & George Harris Map38 Lot 54, Mark Fecteau Map 59 Lot 1-1, and the Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election. The motion passed with all in favor.

Public Input:

1. Robert Bystrack – What does the Conservation Commission do?
J. Gengras – We are responsible for maintaining an inventory of Alton's natural resources and reporting annually to the Town on our activities. We review NHWB wetlands permit applications and send comments to the State. We also review land use applications and provide comments to the Planning Board. We are a comment board. We can recommend, but we have no authority to make binding decisions per NH RSA. We also manage and monitor the Town's protected lands.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of minutes from June 8, 2006 meeting.

**T. Hoopes moved to accept the minutes as amended, second by D.Lawrence.
The motion passed with all in favor.**

Presentations/Consultations:

None at this time

Planning board Agenda Item:

1. E. Bagley – Who makes the decision to have a joint meeting between the Planning Board and the ZBA?
 T. Hoopes – Town Council, Planner, Planning Board, and ZBA (both boards have to agree).
 J. Gengras – I am thinking about giving public input to the Planning Board, regarding chronic deficiencies in applications submitted to the Planning Department and the Planning Board. For example, when applicants submit plans they show wetlands, but don't show the streams or direction of flow within the wetlands.
 T. Hoopes – I think that a member of the Conservation Commission should be on the Technical Review Committee.
 J. Gengras – Does anyone check for the required buffer markers?
 T. Hoopes – No, there is no one to enforce the conditions on the approved plans.
 J. Gengras – What if they Clear-cut the buffer?
 T. Hoopes – There is a compliance hearing and they have to re-seed and re-plant.

Standard Dredge and Fill Applications:

1. Russell Scott Map 75 Lot 61 – Construct a 45' breakwater with a 50' cantilevered dock and 4' wide stairs to shore.

Discussion:

The Commission feels the proposed project meets NHDES rules.

Motion made by J. Gengras to send standard letter of no objection to NH Wetlands Bureau, seconded by T. Hoopes. Motion passed with all in favor.

Notification of Routine Roadway and Railway Maintenance Activities

None at this time

Permit By Notification

1. Doris Knox Map 41 Lot 47 – Repair crib and dock damaged by high water. FYI Commission signed 6/19/206.
2. Susan Aballo Map 78 Lot 8 – Repair existing crib dock that was damaged by ice. The size of the crib is 6'x10', attached dock is 6'x27'4". FYI Commission signed 6/19/206.
3. Donald Oleson Map 80 Lot 32 – Replace two or three rocks at the end of a breakwater and replace part of the dock in-kind to its original condition. FYI Commission signed 6/19/206.
4. Justin & Darlene Webster Map 73 Lot 21 – Re-build existing breakwater, repair existing 16'x16' deck, replace existing 8'6"x30' deck, repair one 8'x12' and one 8'16' cribs, replace 4 fender piling along breakwater. Impact ~850 sq. ft., add ~10 cubic yards of rock to breakwater. Commission signed 6/22/06
5. Christian Camps & Conferences Map 18 Lot 28 – Ice and high water damaged the existing dock on Plum Island. Permit is to simply repair existing structure to prior condition. The size of the dock 32'x3'10". Commission signed 6/22/06
6. Carl Chamberlain Map 42 Lot 22 – Repair cribs down to bottom logs, replace

stringers and decking. Wetlands impact ~421 sq. ft. Commission signed 6/22/06

Minimum Impact Expedited

1. George Banker & Judith Gibson Map 52 Lot 29 – Install (6) fender piling at the right hand dock

Discussion:

The Commission discussed the project and found that it appeared to meet NH Wetlands Bureau rules.

Motion by J. Gengras to direct a Co-Chair to sign application, seconded by R. Burgess. The motion passed with all in favor.

2. Dale & Nancy Hammes Map 9 Lot 17 – To construct a wildlife and potentially a fire control pond approximately 40'x85' in size, partially in upland and partially in wetland with a total wetland impact of approximately 3000 sq. ft.

Discussion:

The Commission discussed the project and is requesting feedback from NHDES on how much wetland function can be disturbed to create a pond.

Motion made by T. Hoopes not to sign application, seconded by E. Bagley. The motion passed with all in favor.

3. Norman MacInnis Map 11 Lot 9-5 – The proposed wetland impact of 1408 sq. ft. is associated with a driveway crossing and culvert invert protection for access to a single family house building site.

Discussion:

The Commission decided to do a site walk pertaining tot his application submittal. J. Gengras and D. Lawrence volunteered.

Motion by J. Gengras and seconded by D. Lawrence to defer action until next meeting after the site walk has taken place. Motion passed will all in favor.

Commissioner Reports:

1. Easement Monitoring/Gilman Pond – J. Gengras/D. Lawrence
 J. Gengras handed out a list of all Town of Alton easement properties and Town owned conservation land. We need to discuss how to monitor the town owned property.
 D. Lawrence – The blazes for property lines need to be re-painted.
 T. Hoopes – Should we use plywood on the backs of the protected land markers because they would hold up better.
 D. Lawrence and G. Young would be interested in monitoring town owned land.
 T.Hoopes – The beavers have enhanced the dam at he Eley property near Drew Hill Road and have permitted a second outlet. If anyone wants to do a beaver release, Gilman Pond would be a good place to release them, as beavers no longer maintain the big dam.
 J. Gengras – I know the beavers are a problem for the Jackson's on Route 28.
 T. Hoopes – The large beaver dam at Gilman Pond is 3'-4' above the stonewall.

I haven't seen beaver activity in Gilman Pond for about 3-4, but they are using the wetlands.

2. NSTS – The deed language has been sent to Attorney Sessler for review.
Motion made by J. Gengras to accept the easement deed as written as long as the Town Attorney and the Board of Selectmen approve, seconded by D. Lawrence. Motion passed with all in favor.

Other Business:

Gilman Pond Conservation Area - D. Lawrence reported that he posted Gilman Pond Conservation Land road frontage with conservation land markers at ~100' intervals. D. Lawrence also checked into the current use status of the Seavey private land with portions of the Gilman Pond Trails. The Seavey private land that is in current use is not in the recreation category, which permits public access. However, the easement on the Seavey land near the old quarry does guarantee public access. The slope is steep with boulders near the top, a possible liability concern, but the trail would probably no worse than the some other public trails. One would have to follow the north shore of the pond for some distance and then go up and across, but that would relocate the trail off the old access road to the quarry, the lower part of which is on the Seavey's private property. The other problem area, near the old cemetery close to Gilman's Corner, could be fixed by relocating the trail off of the Seavey private property and bringing it out to Drew Hill Road on Town land. T. Hoopes noted that the trails would have to be shifted where protected plants grow in the trail. As for the Gilman Pond Dam, the rocks are either being removed or it is eroding. During the last flood the pond overflow was solid water and the road culvert couldn't be seen. The culvert under the road is not big enough to deal with the large flow of water.

No action taken by the Commission

2. Dennis Witherbee Map 50 Lot 16 – Request for Shore land Variance - FYI
No action taken by the Commission
3. Wetlands Complain on C&D Interests – FYI – Cindy from NH Soils dropped off information against the compliant.
No action taken by the Commission
4. Letter from Attorney Sessler regarding the Parkhurst Easement – Attorney Sessler has proposed 5 arbitrators.
No action taken by the Commission

Correspondence:

1. Gray – Site Specific Permit to disturb ~158,228 sq. ft. for construction

A comment was made to the Planning board as a Department Head Review to the subdivision proposal. The plan has not yet been accepted by the Planning Board.

No action taken by the Commission

2. John & George Harris Map 38 Lot 54 – Permit Approval
No action taken by the Commission
3. Nomination Form for County FSA Committee Election – Merrimack-Belknap County
No action taken by the Commission
4. Winnepesaukee Pavilion Map 34 Lot 37 – Shore land Waiver Permit Approval
No action taken by the Commission
5. Mark Fecteau Map 59 Lot 1-1 – Restoration Plan submitted by Varney Engineering
No action taken by the Commission

Adjournment:

Motion made by T. Hoopes and seconded by E. Bagley to adjourn at 9:39pm. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Fortin
Secretary to the Conservation Commission