

**Strafford Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**December 1, 2008**

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Cal Schroeder Carolyn Page Jack Bronnenberg Al Pratt  
Bruce Smith Dave Perkins

Guests: Shawn Barry Scott Barry Brian Lenzi

**Opening and Introductions**

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm. A motion was made by Harmony and seconded by Cal to accept the October 6 and November 3, 2008 **minutes**. Approved.

Let it be noted that the Conservation Commission is the first official group to be using the new geothermally heated town office building. Thank you to all who made this possible.

**Guest Presentations**

Brian Lenzi presented plans for Shawn and Scott Barry to excavate two hills covering approximately 5 – 6 acres on the property of Shawn and their grandfather, Walton Stiles. They plan to strip the top soil to remove the paxton soil underneath. They then propose to return the top soil to the site. They estimate the site to be about 800 feet from the Isinglass River. There is a quarter mile corridor of protection along the river. There will be a wetland crossing to get to the site. Discussion followed.

**DES application** Liz said that the town has put in an application for replacement of the town dock on Water Street. No action on our part is required.

**Old Business**

**The November 17<sup>th</sup> event** - This was a presentation by Phil Auger from the Bear-Paw Regional Greenways to people interested in putting their land into conservation easements. About twenty people were in attendance plus members of the Conservation Commission and Bear-Paw. Harmony will call Phil to be sure follow up contacts are made with interested people.

**Cookie progress** - Carolyn showed the beautiful white oak slices that no longer can be used because the rest of the tree has since been split into firewood. She also had some slabs of cherry with the bark still on. It was decided to scrap that idea and Cal will bring a prototype of his idea of an aerial photo or map of the property to the next meeting. Harmony will get the lot numbers to Al so he can do the maps and update our town map.

**Town forest logging operation update** - We need to set a new date to meet with Charlie Moreno at the town forest. Harmony will call him and send the date to us by email. Harmony walked the site on her own and raised the question of the trapping warning sign posted near the pond on the eastern edge of the forest. No one has been to us for a trapping permit in years. Bruce confirmed the permit needs to be renewed every year. We need to make sure that old signs are taken down so people walking in the forest with their dogs can feel secure. Jack will check with the last trapper who asked for permission.

**Grant results-- next steps** – We were by-passed for both the Moose Plate and the New Hampshire Estuaries grant. Phil will try again.

## **New Business**

### **Openings**

The Conservation Commission will be needing two replacement members in the coming months. We brainstormed some names of people who have expertise in conservation areas, but we have no idea of their interest in us. Harmony will put a general notice in the Calendar asking interested people to come to our meetings for the next few months. Cal will try to go to the selectmen's meeting to see if one of them is interested in joining our group.

### **Payments**

Liz asked permission to send payment to people who have done work for us and to pay our membership dues in regional conservation groups including the Cocheco River Watershed Coalition, Friends of the Suncook River and Bear-Paw Regional Greenways. Money will come from the roll-over fund. Approved by consensus.

There are still two open positions on the Friends of the Suncook River board for Strafford people. Harmony will put a reminder in the Calendar.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Land Protection Group** – Carolyn asked if the group should do follow-up phone calls to the 65 people to whom they sent letters in November. Decision is under consideration.

**Managed Growth Group** – Harmony said that they are trying to get the group together again.

**Water Quality Group** – We told Al about the Lake Management program that some of us attended in October. We're hoping that the water quality group will help to take charge of that project in the spring when we can involve members of the Bow Lake Camp Owners Association. Members who went to the meeting need to find the handouts to pass along to Al.

### **Summary/Adjournment**

Next meeting date: January 5, 2009 (by my calendar – don't know where the 8<sup>th</sup> came from)  
7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page