

**Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
February 7, 2011**

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Al Pratt Dave Perkins Scott A. Young
Bruce Smith Irving Johnson Kerry Omand

Guests: Phil Auger Dennis Vachon

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:07 pm. A motion was made by Liz and seconded by David to accept the January 2011 **minutes**. Approved.

Public Hearing: Purchase of Eliasberg parcels

Phil Auger distributed maps and aerial views of the two Eliasberg parcels that the Conservation Commission is buying for the town. Tract I is located in the Spruce Ponds wetlands, an area of highest natural resource co-occurrence value, and abuts other land that has been preserved. Tract II is a vital link to the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve (IRCR). It abuts the King and Bedford Lots and helps to add another mile and a half of the river to the reserve. The two parcels are a little over twenty acres for which we will be paying \$9,131.59. This is less than we had anticipated. Funds have been set aside for this purpose.

MOTION: A motion was made to acquire these two parcels for the Town of Strafford by Carolyn, seconded by David. Unanimous approval.

Guest Presentations

DES application none

Old Business

IRCR parking lot, trails, grant application

We submitted the forms for a \$19,720.00 grant to pay for the work of making the parking lot, installing the kiosk and creating trails on the IRCR. The grant received by JB Cullen and Bob Edmonds helped us to get approved for this one. Phil said that we will need to get a large machine, probably a brontosaurus, on part of the property where there is overgrown field to get rid of the invasive multiflora rose. The sprouting roots will then need to be sprayed. While most of the funds will be used for the parking lot and connector trail, there will also be a connector trail though the Eliasberg and King Lots to the Bedford Lot. We will need to get a wetlands permit to put in one culvert.

Evans Mountain: Town/Blue Hills meeting

The first meeting has taken place with another scheduled for this month. So far the parties have reached agreement on having a trail from the top of Evans Mountain to the Ledges where it will hook up with the trail to Parker Mountain Road; retaining a snowmobile trail; creating a better view from the top and opening an old apple orchard for wildlife.

Fire Station parking lot proposal news

The selectmen and Harmony and Liz will go to the station to confer with the firemen.

Annual Report progress

Harmony is working on it and will get it to Liz.

Renewing member application deadlines/references

David has turned his in. Harmony and Kerry need to apply. There is some question about whether current members of the Commission can be used as references.

New Business

Trails Committee

Now that we have funds to build the trails, we need a committee to plan and oversee the construction and maintenance of them. Phil has agreed to head the committee. Other names suggested are Debbie Liskow, Jerry Bowman, Marc and Donna Spaulding.

Town Forest Parking area plowing

There is too much snow to try to plow at this point. Next year we need to make plans to have the parking area plowed.

Standing Committee Reports

Managed Growth Group – Due to a lot of opposition on the agricultural land conservation, the Planning Board has dropped the proposal as currently conceived.

Summary/Adjournment

Next meeting date: Monday, March 7, 2011 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page