

**Town of Northwood  
Conservation Commission Minutes  
February 5, 2013**

Vice Chairman Steve Hampl calls the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Present:** Vice Chairman Steven Hampl, James Ryan, Paul Lussier, Thomas Chase, Wini Young, Board Administrator Linda Smith, and Board Secretary Lisa Fellows-Weaver.

**Absent:** Chairman Stephen Roy, Alternate Loren O'Neil, and Alternate Michael Matson

**MINUTES**

**January 8, 2013**

**Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Mr. Lussier, to approve the minutes of January 8, 2013. Motion passes; 4/0/1.** Ms. Young abstains, as she was not at the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***2013 Goals and Objectives***

Ms. Smith provides a draft outline of goals and objectives for the commission to consider and discuss.

Mr. Chase comments that the town's proposed operating budget was not challenged or modified at the deliberative session so the commission should have the funds available to move forward with their proposed projects. Ms. Smith notes that the funds should be available either way as the default budget is higher than the proposed operating budget.

**5. Forest Management Plan ~ Guptill Property**

A discussion is held regarding a timber harvest review to be held on the Guptill property. Mr. Hampl states that he feels that it is uncertain as to what is there relative to the value. Ms. Smith states that she believes that the intent was to have the forester or a consultant look at the parcel.

Ms. Young states that she would like to organize a walk of the Guptill property with her students and the commission. She states that spring would be a good time to walk the parcel and look into where trails might be placed. She adds there is some erosion on the existing logging road. Mr. Hampl suggests a site walk be scheduled in the beginning of April.

In addition, Ms. Young notes that there are a few invasive species located on the property and she would like to get permission to remove them now as they are small.

Mr. Hampl proceeds to go over the 2013 Goals Worksheet by each item.

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**1. Internal Documents**

***A. Review/consideration of Land Fund documents submitted by Mr. Lussier.***

Ms. Smith states that the documents are provided tonight for review. She explains that these documents are from other towns and are a starting point for the commission relative to duties, criteria, mission statement, etc.

Mr. Hampl defers these documents to next month's meeting for further discussion.

**2. Land Acquisition**

***A. Follow-up-Yeaton***

Ms. Smith states that a letter has been sent out. A response has not been received to date. This item is continued to next month.

Additional discussion is held regarding rabbits and the culling of certain plants in the vicinity of the Lalish parcel. Mr. Ryan states that according to NH biologists there is a certain breed of rabbits that are not flourishing in NH. He states that there is a band from Vermont to Maine for these rabbits.

Ms. Young states that there is an old logging road and a clear cut area that she has *been made aware* of rabbits in the vicinity. She mentions a student, who is very knowledgeable of the area and will ask him if he would provide a summary of what he has seen in the area. She will follow up with this item.

**3. Land Conservation**

***A. Training/Stewardship Monitoring***

A discussion is held regarding the last training session put on by Society of the Protection of NH Forests. The members feel that another training session would be beneficial for the commission. Mr. Hampl requests that Mr. Roy schedule another training this spring with SPNHF.

***B. Outreach***

A discussion is held regarding outreach and the lack of outlets for outreach. Mr. Hampl states that the commission still must keep avenues open.

Ms. Smith suggests the commission do press releases to make property owners aware of what their options are.

Mr. Lussier suggests leaflets be created and placed in the kiosk at the entrance of the state park; and an announcement on the cable channel. He adds that the commission needs to make people aware of how much land in town is in conservation and how to keep the land protected. Discussion ensues regarding creating a brochure, or flyer for distribution.

Mr. Ryan suggests receiving an update yearly from *Bear-Paw Regional Greenways* as  
*Official as of March 5, 2013*

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to what their focus is and if it affects what the commission is working on or interested in. In addition, Mr. Ryan also mentions water sustainability and suggests doing a review of the town's water resources. He mentions the variety of storms that have occurred, and that each storm affects the water qualities. He adds that every community should be involved and should there be a need for improvement, make the improvements. Mr. Ryan refers to a report relative to water sustainability that he will provide to the commission for review at a future meeting.

In addition, Mr. Ryan mentions the Lake Host programs that are active at the lakes in Northwood. He explains why this program is very important to have.

Ms. Smith states that the planning board is working on updating the Master Plan. She states that an area that does generate interest is water. She adds that the planning board is creating a water resource subcommittee and that committee may do more research, gather information, take on more tasks, etc.

**4. Town Forester/Town Forest Projects**

***A. Schedule Meeting with Charles Moreno***

A discussion is held regarding the need to schedule a meeting with the town forester. The commission requests that Ms. Smith contact Mr. Roy for his availability dates and suggest the March 5 or April 2 regular commission meeting.

**6. Collaborative efforts with other groups:**

***Northwood Planning Board, NALMC, Friends of Northwood Meadows SP, CBNA, Bear Paw Greenways, Forest Society***

***A. Forest Society Regional Forest Management Plan, special days, etc.***

Mr. Hampl states that for the most part the commission does keep in touch with other groups on an as needed bases. He adds that members are involved with various groups.

Ms. Smith states that Mr. Roy had been talking with NALMC relative to a regional forest management plan, multiple properties. With special days, there could be a special event. Mr. Chase notes that the Bean Hole Bash has been re-established and will occur in July.

**Other**

***Invasive Species and Fungi***

Additional discussion is held regarding invasive species and fungi. Mr. Hampl states that this is a question for the forester. He states that there needs to be discussions held as to what the conservation commission can do to plan for the future and for now.

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***Lucas Pond Tree Trimming***

Ms. Young notes that there are some trees that are currently hanging over the power lines on Lucas Pond Rd. and should be trimmed. Ms. Young suggests that this be an item discussed with the forester.

***Woodman Park***

Ms. Smith states that she has been in contact with Marion Knox who is the secretary for the town's facilities committee who stated that she does not have a report which specifically breaks down the expenditures on this property. Ms. Smith states that she spoke to the finance administrator who explained that the funds are deposited into a trust fund. She adds that not all funds may have been spent throughout the year. She states that the problem is that there are multi-year tasks with the facilities committee. She notes that she has not spoken to the facilities committee chairman to date. She adds that the finance administrator may be able to gather the information going back a year or two; however, was not able to have the information available for this meeting.

***Special Reports***

Ms. Smith provides an update of the January 22, 2013, selectmen's meeting which she, Mr. Roy, Mr. Ryan, and Mr. Hampl were in attendance. She states that Mr. Roy explained to the selectmen the commission's possible land project of 50+ acres. The selectmen expressed concern with the monetary requirements off the town and asked how the funds are spent. Further discussion was held at the meeting.

***Adjournment***

**Mr. Chase makes a motion, second by Mr. Lussier, to adjourn. Motion passes unanimously at 9:00 p.m. Motion passes unanimously; 5/0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Fellows-Weaver  
Board Secretary