

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of March 11, 2009**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Patricia Coppelino, Larry Garland, Don Wallace, Matt Krebs, Pam Knox, Russ Barrett, Leslie Matthews, Mark McEathron (VLT) and Art Suplee (Planning Commission).

Chair called meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Postponed until April meeting.

III. **DISCUSSION**

- a. **Presentation from Mark McEathron, Vermont Land Trust.** Mark gave a short presentation about the basics of how the VLT works. He said most of the land the VLT deals with is 50 acres or larger and is donated. He also gave an overview of how the conservation easements work and then took questions. There were a variety of questions ranging from how permanent the VLT's conservation easements are to discussing if there is money available to purchase easements. He also talked about federal tax deductions on VLT easements and ways to encourage people to consider conserving their land. One idea was to look at all the land in Current Use and send a letter from the Northfield Conservation Commission to landowners to consider a conservation easement.
- b. **Town Meeting.** Chair Coppelino gave an overview of how things went at town meeting. She discussed how a lot of people were asking about invasive species. Also, there was mention of people interested in contributing to the NCC. Leslie will create a list serve for the web site so anyone interested in helping can be kept up to date.
- c. **Plan for Municipal Forest Management.** Each Commissioner gave an update of the status of their specific topics that they are responsible to update.
- a. Commissioners Garland and Matthews talked about wildlife, forest and habitat management. Commissioner Matthews stated she got the consulting forester's management plan for the municipal lands from Commissioner Garland and was in the process of reviewing it.
- b. Commissioner Coppelino discussed the different access points for Commissioner Krebs. She had been in contact with Bill Lyon and went to meet with him to get his feedback on parking at the access points we have determined. Unfortunately, he was not able to meet.
- d. **Northfield Historical Society.** Commissioner Garland attended a historical society meeting and explained what our mandate is and offered the commission's help if any is needed.
- e. **Trustees Meeting.** Chair Coppelino attended a Trustees meeting and gave an update of the commission's activities. She explained we are still working on the Municipal Forest Management Plan. The Trustees asked about mountain biking and

ATV's and if we had any decisions. Chair Coppolino explained that all activities were still on the table and we are exploring how to make each one accountable for enforcement of the plan. Commissioner Barrett will check with Berlin about their policy for ATV's on their lands. They were happy with the progress and overall activities of the commission. They were ok with opening the gates to Cheney Field and/or the well field for a festus. Chair Coppolino asked about the status of the water lines that are on Paine Mountain and they were open to the commission making some recommendations as to what to do about them.

- f. Development Review Board.** Commissioner Knox gave an overview of what a DRB is and will follow up with the Town of Warren about when their DRB was formed and how the process went.
- g. Summer Festus.** Commissioner Barrett will research information about Warren's forest festival for ideas.
- h. Elect New Officials.** Chair Coppolino asked if anyone would like to be nominated for Chair or Secretary for the next year. There were no volunteers for chair so Chair Coppolino said she be willing to be nominated again. Commissioner Krebs said he would prefer not to be secretary again and Commissioner Garland agreed to be nominated.
Chair-Commissioner Barrett nominated Commissioner Coppolino, Commissioner Krebs seconded. **Motion passed 7-0-0.**
Secretary-Commissioner Knox nominated Commissioner Garland, Commissioner Matthews seconded. **Motion passed 7-0-0.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

V. ACTION ITEMS:

Chair Coppolino

-Will write commissions feedback for Land Use and Natural Resources sections of Town Plan.

Entire Commission

-Come up with feedback and ideas for Land Use and Natural Resources sections of Town Plan.

Commissioner Matthews

-Create list serve for website for any interested people to be involved with Commission.

-Update wildlife, forest and habitat management sections of Municipal Management Plan.

-Add working recommendations for Municipal Management Plan to website.

Commissioner Krebs

-Research Town Row's and meet with Bill Lyon to discuss possible parking sites for access to municipal land.

Commissioner Barrett

-Research Berlin's policy about ATV's on their properties.

-Research Warren's forest festival for ideas.

Commissioner Knox

-Talk to Warren's zoning administrator about when their DRB was formed and how the process went.

Commissioner Garland

- Update wildlife, forest and habitat management sections of Municipal Management Plan.

- V. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Matthews to adjourn. **Motion passed 7-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew S. Krebs

Matthew S. Krebs, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.