

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of May 14, 2008**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Patricia Coppolino, Larry Garland, Don Wallace, Matt Krebs, Pam Knox, Russ Barrett, and Leslie Matthews.

Chair called meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

- II. **SELECTION OF CLERK:** Motion by Chair Coppolino, seconded by Commissioner Garland. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Motion by Commissioner Wallace, seconded by Chair Coppolino, to approve minutes. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**

IV. **DISCUSSION**

- a. **Update Dog River Geomorphic Assessment Grant.** Commissioner Garland discussed the status of the study. The steering committee is scheduled to meet May 20, 2008. Bear Creek Environmental is the contractor handling the assessment. Central Vermont Regional Planning has been contracted to digitize maps of the Dog River and all tributaries. The main stem of the Dog is done, as well as, the Berlin Tributaries. All the digitizing should be complete by June 1, 2008. Volunteers will be needed to help with some field work Monday-Friday during business hours. The field survey will be conducted from June to September and the contractor will provide public outreach when the study is complete. Commissioner Garland will research land owner information for Northfield and Roxbury so contractor can get approval to cross private lands. He will also ask Montpelier and Berlin to help for their towns.
- b. **Plan for Municipal Forest Management.** Discussion of sections within report outline ensued. Commissioner Barrett had spoken with VASA (Vermont All-Terrain Vehicles Sportsman's Association) and they are only looking for a pass through trail to connect their network together. Chair Coppolino discussed how local bikers were interested in a trail network either through VMBA (Vermont Mountain Bike Association) or MAMBA (Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association). Commissioner Matthews expressed desire for a hiking trail network that would not be affected by either mountain bikes or ATV's. It was also mentioned to review Berlin's management plan for Irish Hill as a possible template. A preliminary division of sections occurred with needed follow up to better define the objectives for moving forward.

VI. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items.**

- a. **Dave Packie.** Dave is a local mountain biker interested in creating a trail network on Municipal Forest and Norwich land. It was noted that he would need to contact Norwich for permission as the Conservation Commission has no authority over their property. He presented a pamphlet about land owner liability and how VMBA would support any land owner following state guidelines for allowing use of land for mountain biking in the event of a lawsuit. He also discussed the need for designated

trails and feels that multi use trails (combined biking and hiking) would not be a good idea. Discussion ensued as to what would need to happen next to incorporate all forms of use.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Commissioner Garland, seconded by Commissioner Wallace, to adjourn. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew S. Krebs

Matthew S. Krebs, Clerk

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