

BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of March 11, 2009

Members In attendance: Jody Kaufman, Doug Cowie, Heather Gilbert, Jonathan Ellis
Alternates in attendance: Victor Schmalzer, Reid Bunker
Also, Emily Schmalzer

1. Ellis convened the meeting at 7:07.
2. Cowie made a motion to give Bunker and Schmalzer voting rights for the meeting, Kaufman seconded the motion and it carried by voice vote.
3. The February minutes were reviewed. Cowie moved to accept them and Kaufman seconded. An earlier email from Rob Wofchuck suggested that a couple of the duty assignments mentioned in the draft minutes had been spoken for. Cowie acknowledged that he and Ray Jones had agreed to assume the responsibility for managing the Conservation Easement monitoring effort. Gilbert indicated that she had agreed to handle liaison duties with the Southeast Land Trust and Kaufman volunteered to assist her in that undertaking. Emily Schmalzer was present to volunteer to fill the vacancy currently held by Ellis whose term is expiring. Ellis said he would ask the Board of Selectmen to appoint her and reappoint Gilbert whose term also expires this year. By voice vote the minutes were approved as amended.
4. Ellis provided an update on the pending Conservation Easement related to the NE Dragway's ongoing dredge and fill permit application. The Rockingham County Conservation District is the anticipated holder of the Easement that is being drafted at this time. Mark West of West Environmental representing the Dragway had asked Ellis to raise two issues that Mary Currier of RCCD has raised with him. The first is whether the Commission will be willing to hold an Executory Interest in the easement; after brief discussion, the answer is yes. The second concerns the Commission's earlier expressions of use limitations for the easement areas, particularly agricultural and recreational uses. Mary Currier has noted that the soils in the easement area are of a prime agricultural type and she is loath to abandon agricultural uses in such areas. Schmalzer and Bunker reiterated concerns for clearcutting forested areas, especially in the wetlands, to create ball fields or large agricultural uses like a hayfield. Gilbert mentioned concerns with fertilizer runoff into the Fresh River. Ellis committed to share these concerns with West and to stipulate that any plan the easement area include a requirement for Best Management Practices and prior approval by interest holders.
5. Ellis reported that in mid February Frank Richardson of NHDES indicated that he hoped to have finalized his review of the Town's Prime Wetlands Recommendations by early March; no further update has been received.
6. Ellis read a letter received from Francis and Frank Pimentel and Nina Kewley reporting that their property at 44 Rowell Road is under purchase and sale agreement with an anticipated closing date of May 26, 2009. The buyer's name is Caron and the letter included her current address. Gilbert agreed to write her a letter offering the Commission's assistance if she has any questions about the Conservation Easement.
7. Ellis reported that Wofchuck has submitted a CTAP grant application to the Picataqua Region Estuaries Project to review the town's zoning and subdivision regulations for possible updates or revisions to reflect technology improvements or other technical enhancements.
8. Ellis reviewed the two Warrant Articles the Commission is sponsoring for the March 12 town meeting and encouraged members to attend and speak in favor of them.
9. At 8:12, Gilbert moved to adjourn, Kaufman seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting will be on April 8, 2009.