

MINUTES  
BRENTWOOD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Brentwood NH  
June 10, 2009  
(Amended July 8, 2009)

Members In attendance: Jody Kaufman, Heather Gilbert, Ray Jones, Emily Schmalzer, and Rob Wofchuck, chair  
Alternates in attendance: Victor Schmalzer, Reid Bunker

We convened at the Town Hall shortly after 7PM.

Motion to grant voting rights to V. Schmalzer and Bunker. (E. Schmalzer/Kaufman)  
Passed

The minutes of March 13, 2009 were approved unanimously.

Ray Jones provided an update on the recent Exeter River Local Advisory Commission (ERLAC). Victor Schmalzer volunteered to be the third representative from Brentwood. Rob to work on appointment from Selectman.

We had anticipated having Dave Viale from SELTNH (Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire) join us this evening, but he was unable to attend. We had hoped he would update us on the Open Space projects. He had some specific things to say, which Rob related to us:

On Rowell Road is a parcel belonging to Nisbett. Rob will be adding supplemental information on this potential project. We need to contact Jon Ellis for further information.

The Standley property on Deer Hill Road is nearly but not quite contiguous with the mitigation area on Pine Road. It is adjacent to several gravel pits. Jody says that the area is easily accessible from the Brentwood Wetland Mitigation area on Pine Road which has lovely riding and walking paths and an excellent birding area complete with great blue heron rookery. There are questions whether it would be of high priority for the town, especially if there were no way to bridge the distance between it and the mitigation area officially.

The Hannon land adjacent to the Schmalzer/Nekton(nowDunham)/McMullen conservation land on the river we had been considering a grant from the Wetland Reserve Program. Victor pointed out that there is a nice red maple flood plain, which is of interest but again small acreage.

The Bordeen property's status needs to be reviewed.

A meeting with Sue Hoey of NRCS was suggested. Rob to organize the meeting.

Bunker requested names and addresses for properties that are being discussed.

Bunker requested a list of the names of the organizations that are frequently abbreviated.

The Brentwood Master Plan needs an updated chapter for Open Space. The Planning Board will be applying for a grant from the Rockingham Planning Commission. Glenn Greenwood (our part-time town planner) thinks it is likely that we will get the grant. We agreed that we would like to be involved in the process of developing this new chapter. The ranking system for land protection priorities, in particular, we should take an interest in re-evaluating.

We need to consider reviving the open space committee, which has been dormant in these days of recession, especially as real estate values are beginning to fall. Should the open space committee be independent of our commission, or included in it, or something in between. Some of the Open Space work has to be confidential, and ours is a public meeting. We might be able to work the two together by having occasional private executive sessions the way the selectmen do. Victor has offered to talk with Carol Andrew about the legalities of this. On the other hand, there is quite a bit of work for both groups to do, so maybe some separation would be beneficial. Victor was part of the two committees. He still has a number of old files and would be happy to help. Jody would be interested in resuming her old position on the committee, and perhaps Joan and Charlie Pratt could be recruited to return.

Rob reported that the Planning Board is working on the work force housing plan as required by the state. Rob Pruyne of the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) made a presentation to the planning board with a build out analysis. That analysis of our town showed that we are 1500 housing units to build-out, assuming current zoning regulations and avoiding the prime wetlands, and including the county farm property.

The current budget has \$600 for a digital camera and GPS unit. We will probably get the brand of GPS (Garmin) that is compatible with SELTNH so we can transfer files. That will also allow us enough left-over money for a digital camera.

We are current on our SELTNH dues.

A consultant from VHP (Vanasse, Hangen and Brustlin) will be coming to the Planning Commission on June 18 to discuss storm water management. The work on storm water management is from the grant received from the Piscataqua Region Estuary Partnership (PREP).

The NE Dragway's management came to the planning board with regard to their wetland application to address damage from impaired wetlands, including the Fresh River that runs north from their property into the Piscassic watershed. The EPA required extensive water quality testing around the site to determine the extent of storm water management that would be required. Mark West, as wetland scientist for NE Dragway, had advised his client that there is no reasonable way to determine the source of the impairments to water

quality and that it would be easier for his client to install various storm water management devices to improve water quality. NE Dragway presented 3 devices they plan to install once accepted by DES. We should just see that they institute best management practices and monitor that they maintain the devices properly. Most of this will be Epping's responsibility.

Dave Viale has intervened in the Powers/Seeley correspondence and things are settled for now. Future evaluations of the easement involved should involve working with the land owners to review the easement language so that all parties understand what is allowed and not allowed.

Monitoring easements: should we pay SELTNH to do them for us or can we do it all ourselves. We will try.

The Dunham/MacMullen properties are to be logged this summer. Our town forester Charlie Moreno has done the plan. MacMullen has contacted Rob and informed us that a plan is on the way and should be here to comply with the 30 day notification requirement in the easement.

We need to check on who is holding the easement on the DES wetland permits relating to Stratham Tire's property on Rte. 125.

The Brentwood Police are the first people to call in regard to ATV riders on easements where motorized vehicles are not allowed. . Fish and Game may help, but our own police are ready and available.

New questions: Should land foreclosed on by town in lieu of taxes be conserved? Should there be easements on any of the land currently owned by the town? Can we involve ourselves in any outreach and education projects: in particular, river clean-up parties or guided vernal pool and great blue heron rookery tours?

DES recently did a study called Exeter River Geomorphic Assessment. However, a large part of Brentwood was not done due to lack of funding. [Note added after the meeting: the DES has now got the money to finish the evaluation of the parts of the river that were skipped in Brentwood and Fremont last year, Theresa Walker told me. Sometime in August the DES and Bear Creek Environmental will be walking the river. It might be interesting. It is open for anyone to join in.]

The committee adjourned the meeting at 8:40. We plan to reconvene on Wednesday July 8 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Schmalzer  
Member  
June 18, 2009