



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission



Jim Battis, Chairman

Nancy Brucker, Selectmen Liaison

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DATE: 8 April 2013

MEETING MINUTES Below is a listing of minutes for the Hudson Conservation Commission. Minutes are not a verbatim record of each meeting, but rather represent a summary of the discussion and actions taken at the meeting. All Conservation Commission meetings are televised live and repeated during the following week on HCTV, cable television channel 22. Official copies of the minutes are available to read and copy at the Town Engineer's Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.).

Should you have any questions concerning these minutes or wish to see the original recording, please contact the Town Engineer's Office at 603-886-6008.

A regular meeting of the Hudson Conservation Commission (HCC) was held in the Community Development Conference Room of Town Hall.

Members of the Commission present: J Battis, R Brownrigg, K Dickinson, P Dubay

Members of the Commission absent: T Boland, P Nappo

Member of Town Staff present: P Colburn

Board of Selectman Representative present: N Brucker

Seating of Alternates: None

Called to Order at 7:10 p.m.

I. PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- M Coumas: (16 Oban Drive) I want to inform the board of some work being done along Second Brook cutting into the slope and building ATV trails. This work is being done within 10 feet of the brook and at one point within inches.
- J Battis: I understand you have brought this to the attention of the Code Enforcement Officer of the Community Development Department.
- M Coumas: Yes. I called and they said they were aware of it and that they had sent a letter. They told me they did not phone you so I wanted you to be aware of that.
- J Battis: The commission has received has seen copies of the email between you and me. Mr. Oleksak contacted me this morning and has sent a letter to the home owner and he has not yet received the return receipt indicating that the homeowner has received the letter. As I said in my emails, the Conservation Commission does not have enforcement authorities. We appreciate being informed it. I know when Oban drive was build in the early 90's we considered Second Brook to be a very sensitive area.

- M Coumas: There are conservation easements on all the properties from 18 Oban Drive to the river. This property is on the other side of the brook.
- J Battis: These are older properties possibly predating the wetland ordinance which is why there are no easements. I did inform him that the Conservation Commission considers this a sensitive area. Mr. Oleksak is the code enforcement officer and we have no enforcement authority. I also understand you contacted the state.
- M Coumas: I contacted the town and they said they knew about it on March 14th and sent the letter on March 22nd saying they had ten days to respond. That is well past. Leaving to come here tonight they were digging today. It has proceeded from being a twenty foot encroachment to being well over 120 feet of embankment that has been cut.
- J Battis: These are some recent photographs he has taken.
- M Coumas: What concerns me is that neighbors in the area are seeing it and they are talking. They are now saying if the Town is going to let other people do whatever they want they are going to start using their land as well. I think you are going to have a bigger issue if something is not done. When people have 50 feet of land by 150 feet of brook frontage that is a lot of land.
- N Brucker: I will follow up on this with Mr. Oleksak and make sure that someone gets out to look at this very soon and takes care of it.
- J Battis: In your discussions with DES I assume they pointed out that they can also take action.
- M Coumas: Well, they cannot until soil actually enters the brook.
- P Dubay: On that the DES cannot act until a surface water body has been impacted by the soils. There has been a lot of litigation about wetlands. Just recently a sand and gravel plant was fined \$700,000 and they had to pay for some consultant to redo the wetlands. So it is not that they would not have some action taken against them. It might take a while but you can let your neighbors know it will not pass with DES.
- M Coumas: I just wish someone stopped them when it was twenty feet of damage rather than the whole property.
- J Battis: Several years ago there was a cutting on Williams Drive.
- K Dickinson: I recall three cases right off the top of my head where there was some modification to the bank to fix some prior modification. One was ten years ago on the Merrimack River and the homeowner needed to hire a wetland scientist because it was on the river. There was another one down at Limit Brook where someone cut down their whole backyard and another in the south part of town. The last two were mitigated by a forester.
- J Battis: The point being that the mitigation did take a while to achieve but was costly to the homeowner in terms of hiring professionals to make plans and carry out the mitigation.
- R LeDoux (12 Oban Drive) I live directly across from this individual on the other side of the brook. My concern is that I own a small sliver of land on his side. When that brook rises, and I have lived there 45 years; it does rise, it will change the character of the brook. If that dirt starts migrating into the brook I don't want to be part of what is going on. If he is doing something he shouldn't be doing I feel it should be stopped. The way he is doing it there is no question that a lot of that is going to end up in the brook when we have heavy rains.
- K Dickinson: If the person doing the bank modification wants to come in we might be able to come up with some suggestions as to how they can restore the bank themselves but obviously any of this work would have to be inspected by the Town.
- R LeDoux: They have built a big cinderblock fireplace at the water's edge and they ignite that fire with gasoline. Who knows what is going into the brook.

- R Brownrigg: They built a firepit? Don't they need a permit for that?
- P Dubay: Do you have any proof or photos?
- R LeDoux: If you went right now there is a gas can sitting on the ground.
- J Battis: Once again I have to emphasize that we are not an enforcement body. However, both of those comments increase our concern. Perhaps we should bring this to the attention of the Dire Department.
- R LeDoux: I ask that you have concern for us as well because after you leave we need to live with these people.
- M Coumas: Are you allowed to drive ATVs along the brook? That is destructive in itself. That was our concern before he even started building the trails.
- J Battis: That would require some study because it is on their own property. I suspect they have every right to drive an ATV around their own property. Once it gets near the wetlands I would have to research that.
- P Dubay: If he destroys buffer would that be a wetlands infringement?
- R LeDoux: I ride ATVs up north on designated trails. Fish and Game, who control ATVS, were telling us that you are not allowed to cross any body of water or wetlands. If you disturb it, you will be fined and will have to restore it the way it was. So you cannot come in contact with the wetlands or water with that ATV.
- J Battis: Obviously this crosses the authority of a group of different agencies. So it is something we will follow upon.
- R Brownrigg: I know this has been a problem for a long time. I know Berlin, NH has licensing for ATVs. Is that something we have considered in this area? If we designate an area for ATVs we could fine them for being in the wrong areas. Do they need to be licensed or have some sort of permit?
- J Battis: To legally ride on property which is not yours, you must get the written permission of the land owner and carry it with you.
- R LeDoux: Fish and Game says 16 and under you have to have a helmet and be accompanied by a licensed driver; 16 and over you must have a drivers license and the vehicle has to be registered and you need a Fish and Game safety course.
- M Coumas: It just seems that driving an ATV within feet of the brook does not go along with Hudson's ordinance. That is why I brought it up.
- J Battis: I think you are correct and you took the proper steps.
- K Dickinson: The owners might not be aware of the ordinances or building construction rules.
- J Battis: I think you are correct and that is the purpose of the wetland ordinance. As part of the process of Wetland Special Exceptions, the owner gets a checklist of procedures they need to follow.
- M Coumas: When I built my house, we had to put those silt barriers 50 feet from the brook and we were not allowed to touch anything from those lines to the brook. If they had to but up a barrier it would be where their house is.
- J Battis: Just to clarify that, you can come before the Conservation Commission, and ultimately to the ZBA, to get permission to work in the Conservation District and that requires a Wetlands Special Exception. Under certain circumstances we might allow you to put the silt fences at 25 feet. But the first step is to apply for and go through the process of obtaining a Wetland Special Exception. That has obviously not been done. So any work inside of the 50 foot is in violation of the Town Ordinance. In your letter the DES said that as soon as you saw

soil going into the brook...

- M Coumas: They were going to wait until after the April rains.
- J Battis: It will rain in April.
- K Dickinson: Having a construction background, it seems like a pretty easy fix. However, with a substantial rain it could degrade quickly.
- J Battis: That was my point about bringing up Williams Drive because the owner bemoaned the cost of the remediation that was required. It can get expensive but you do have to go through the enforcement process. We appreciate your coming in and, as you pointed out in your statement, it is not always the easiest thing to do. At 7:40 pm I will close Public Input and continue with the agenda.

II. OLD BUSINESS

None

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission input on possible sale of Town Owned Property (Map 227 Lot 007)

- J Battis: This is an inquiry from the Board of Selectmen through Mr. Malizia, the Town Administrator. The Town has been approached about the potential sale of Town owned property at 45 Sagamore Road and we are being asked for any input on this property. It has been reviewed by the Department heads and there has been no interest in holding this property. To give some background, this lot is just north of the Sagamore Bridge with a driveway easement from Sagamore Road and is 0.552 acres. In the early 1990's, a former member of the Conservation Commission, Michelle Champion, spent a lot of time trying to develop a river-side trail system along the Merrimack River in Hudson. We have a series of pedestrian conservation easements along the river one of which goes north of this property for about 0.5 miles and other is located south along the river off Fairway Drive. There are patchy walkway easements further north such as Serenity Estates. Going south, Green Meadow Golf Club, it was my understanding, resisted giving any easements due to liability issues. However, when the big development was proposed for that site, the developer did propose to put in a trail easement through that land. I would suggest that if the Town was able to obtain an easement through the Green Meadow lot, this lot would allow us to connect these easements, assuming we could get access under the Sagamore Bridge. If the Town did sell the land, you would lose the ability to connect these easements.
- R Brownrigg: Could you build a boat ramp there?
- J Battis: No, the slopes are fairly steep and very unstable so you would not want to cut into that at all.
- R Brownrigg: Why is the Town so quick to sell it?
- N Brucker: The Town is not. The Town has been approached by the owner of one of the adjacent lots. They are trying to piece together a larger piece of land.
- R Brownrigg: In my opinion I would like to see us hold on to it for a little bit longer.
- N Brucker: That was the opinion of the Board of Selectmen at the meeting. Is there any reason beyond the trail to hold this property?
- J Battis: I don't like to see development there because the slopes are so unstable and development could produce high erosion.
- P Colburn: The other body that will effect development is the DES and the Shoreland Protection program.

- K Dickinson: I took a drive to this property and what appears to be a house is actually a business. If a trail is ever done, there are some physical restrictions. There is a detention basin on the state property that you would need to go around. Crossing under the bridge is tight. It is basically for maintenance purposes.

Motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Town not sell the property at Map 227 Lot 007 because it does have value for possible trail development in the future and that the property has conservation value beyond trail development.

Motion by: R. Brownrigg

Second by K. Dickinson

Discussion:

- K Dickinson: I think that any treed land that we can protect along the river has conservation value that potential exceeds the economic value to the Town.

Vote: For 4 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

B. Discussion of Policies on Loaning of DASH equipment.

- J Battis: Mr. Malizia has sent us a letter from the Litchfield Conservation Commission inquiring about the possibility of using our DASH unit to assist in their efforts to control milfoil at Darrah Pond. I have spoken to Joan McKibben, Chairmen of the Litchfield Conservation Commission, and they are at a very preliminary stage. They are sounding us out to determine if we would be open to it. I explained that our unit is basically the pontoon boat and that they would need to get the pumps and hoses and hire the divers to operate the system and that it might be as easy to hire a DASH unit as to get it from us. I recommended that they speak to DES. I also emailed Jim Kegley and Jane Bowls, who have been active in the invasive species management at Robinson and Ottarnic Ponds. They had concerns about issues of liability and the protection of the boat while it is at Darrah Pond. Litchfield, as is Hudson, is under a default budget and they do not know if they can proceed with any activity at Darrah Pond this year. I thought we should consider if we want to establish a loan policy.

At 8:10 p.m. R. Brownrigg temporarily left the meeting putting the Commission at less than a quorum. The Chairmen stated that the Commission could continue discussions but could not take make any motions until a quorum was achieved.

- K Dickinson: When we have a quorum again I would make a motion to table the item until someone has a specific request with a proposal that has a time frame.
- P Dubay: I agree with tabling but I think we should keep an open mind about working with Litchfield and others to share resources.
- K Dickinson: I had some of the same thoughts. It would be nice to help Litchfield protect Darrah Pond. It would be interesting to see how much liability there is.
- J Battis: I think the liability is the cost of the boat. The Litchfield Conservation Commission was to have a discussion on this last Monday and I have not heard anything from them. I assume they are still in a preliminary mode.
- N Brucker: Can you be sure that when you put our DASH into Darrah Pond we are not

- transferring our invasive species?
- J Battis: We do have the Lake Host Program and I would assume they would check the unit. I feel that it is important that any loan be on a non-interference basis with our use of the DASH unit and that the transfer would be to the diver. My sense would be that the diver would want to use their own.
 - K Dickinson: Based on that I do not think this is a worthwhile use of our time.
 - J Battis: I will tell Mr. Malizia that we think this discussion is premature.
 - P Dubay: Is everything owned by the Town of Hudson?
 - J Battis: Correct. What was donated to the Town of Hudson was the pontoon boat and trailer. There are other components such as pumps and hoses, are required to operate it which, for us, AB Aquatics has provided.
 - P Dubay: For the boat and trailer is there insurance in place?
 - N Brucker: I don't know but I will check into it.
 - P Dubay: If not, we might ask the renter to cover them. We probably should table it, but if we do get a policy in place it would make future discussions easier.
 - J Battis: I put this forward just to get us thinking about this so if Litchfield comes back with a request, we can move forward more quickly.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Stewardship of Conserved Lands

- J Battis: Mrs. Rumbaugh is here to talk about the Musquash Trail System.
- S Rumbaugh (39 Beechwood Road): I just want to start noting it is not just my effort. Ralph Alio and Joe Undercofler have also been very instrumental in going out to the area and mapping trails, figuring out where trail posts will be, and coming up with names. I have a couple of objectives tonight. I would like to get the process of getting names approved by the Commission and then the Selectmen. Second, I would like to talk about a May cleanup and what projects are involved. Then I will talk about future projects and, last, what projects we would like to accomplish this spring and summer. This past winter we were mapping the trails. Our intent was to stick to what is known and not add new trails. What you see on the map are existing trails with several new trail names. If you start at the bottom near marker M-9, near Musquash Road, I propose "Colburn Trail", named after an early settler in Hudson. The second trail is the previously named "Bird Trail" which I would like to rename the "Kingfisher Trail". If you go to marker M-23, which was created by the Girl Scouts, we would like to call that "Whispering Pine Trail". At M-52 we would like to name that "Nacook Loop" and then, all the way at the top between M-61 and M-65 we would like to call that "Hidden Ridge Trail".
- J Battis: What is the origin of Nacook?
- S Rumbaugh: There is a brook.
- J Battis: You are not proposing any names for the connector trails?
- S Rumbaugh: We do not want to name the connector trails. What you see on the map at M-9, M-18, and M-20 are proposed sites for posts and would be indicators of the trail names and directions so if somebody had a map they could say I am at this location. Between M-25 and M-40 those are connector trails to the power lines. At some point Ralph will create a new trail so that is a loop and we will name that trail at that point. At M-56 that will remain unnamed and at M-61 we will make an adjustment so it will connect to the "Hidden Ridge Trail".

- K Dickinson: Just a thought. Because it is already there, I would have shown the trail that goes towards Woodland Drive but just dead-ending at the swamp even though it continues behind the other residence.
- S Rumbaugh: The only problem with that is the trail right now goes on private property. It is not all on Musquash. That is an issue we are still working out. Our intent was not to show the trails up at the top part yet but get what was well defined. This is not a final map.
- K Dickinson: Just so you have them and can amend the map later.
- S Rumbaugh: We will be amending the map. If you look at the bottom you see red hash marks over Musquash to the left, there are trail but that will be phase two. The trail Ralph wants to do between M-25 and M-40 we avoid the power line. We are trying to get some other trails in there that will give you a variety coming back and avoiding the power lines. Once we do the bridge and open up that area into Gumpus and there are trails over there but, again, we didn't show them because there is no access unless you go in winter and cross the ice or over the beaver dam. Some of the spring projects or things we would like to accomplish this summer include regarding the parking area. Joe is working on the trail posts and we hope to get those up and installed once we get the approval for the trail names. We will get a map within a month or two. On the Nash-Hamblett trail there is a project where we talked about putting a culvert in with some stone. The final one is to clear the Coburn Trail because that has a lot of trees down. The May cleanup would not be done when they do a Benson Park cleanup. Some easy projects include cleanup on the Whispering Pines Trail, do maintenance on the Kingfisher Trail. On the Meeting House Trail there is a nice vista that is blocked by trees. We would like to remove these small trees that obscure the view. We will continue to work on the foundations. We did a pretty good job on the ones up front in the fall. There is more to be done on those foundations but also those behind. Also creation of a trail between M-61 and M-65 to create a loop. In terms of future projects, we are looking at restoring the bridge that leads you over to Gumpus Pond. Joe and Ralph had suggested looking at the bridges at Beaver Brook. We did speak with Pete Smith, the executive director at Beaver Brook and he designed them and I will meet with him next Tuesday. His bridges cost \$400. Materially they are not expensive but it is getting the labor. We also want to look at opening a trail from Woodlawn Drive to the Nash-Hamblett. You have within your control the Spaulding Account, given in memory of a son who had passed away, that was to be used for conservation purposes. You might consider using that money for simple benches in Musquash at certain vistas.
- J Battis: Do you have a date for the May cleanup?
- S Rumbaugh: I don't know when the Benson Park cleanups are.
- J Battis: It was suggested to us that when we schedule something we get it on the cable TV and possible send something to the HLN.
- S Rumbaugh: Can we use any of the money to buy materials, like rakes, or gas for people who bring chain saws?
- J Battis: I will need to investigate but I think that is what the money is intended for. Are you keeping track of your time and people's time?
- S Rumbaugh: Yes.
- J Battis: Excellent. If you send something to me I will put a spreadsheet together because the grant gives us credit for those hours. We had put in \$1500 for Stewardship but because the Town is going to a default budget we do not have that money. However, we had funds

for various things last year so I expect we should have them again this year.

- S Rumbaugh: Just as reminder, when we received the Trail Grant last year, I did check that we could use it at other places so it can be used at the Town Forest also.
- J Battis: Yes, I am aware of that. You do have a plan. I have been looking at the aerial photos and once get over to the other side with the bridge there is a fair amount of high land over there and the Town of Pelham has conservation land that abuts Musquash and is in Hudson. This would open up a large area over there. We probably should talk to them about getting involved. Getting the bridge will open up the east side of Musquash. With Woodland Drive, we are not talking about a parking lot. Parking would be on the circle and we have a pedestrian easement down the slope and into the existing trail. As you stated, that trail's only connection to the trails you are showing is from outside the property.
- S Rumbaugh: The other thing Ralph and I talked about was to try to get access from Bush Hill Road by purchasing an easement or portion of a lot. It would probably be along the power lines. One other thing, in the Whispering Pines area there is a hunting stand there. I know hunting is allowed within the conservation area but I believe it is not suppose to be there out of season.

At 8:40 p.m. R. Brownrigg returned to the meeting satisfying the quorum requirement.

- J Battis: I had sent an email to someone at Fish and Game about that but for whatever reason, I have not had a response. I will follow up on it.
- S Rumbaugh: Something else we might consider is putting up plaques on the boundary stating that this is conservation land.
- P Dubay: Would that fall under signage with the other signs we wanted to do?
- J Battis: Yes. Mr. Brownrigg has returned at 8:40 and we are at quorum. The procedure is for the Conservation Commission to provide the trail names to the Board of Selectmen. At this point I would entertain a motion to propose the trails as indicated in the Musquash Conservation Area map, presented to us tonight, to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the proposed trails and names as presented on the Musquash Conservation Area map.

Motion by: P Dubay

Second by K. Dickinson

Discussion:

- P Dubay: Do we go to the Board of Selectmen first or the Fire Department? I believe the Fire Department had to approve the names before they went to the Board of Selectmen.
- S Rumbaugh: If I get your recommendation I will move forward.
- P Colburn: It is Steve Dube.
- P Dubay: If you could let us know how that goes.
- J Battis: Last time I just think we sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen with the recommendations.

Vote: For 4 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- P Colburn: You could also put it on the website.
- J Battis: Thank you for your efforts. As soon as you get a date for the cleanup we will try to

get it on the TV so you can get some volunteers. This takes us to another item. Mr. Dickinson provided us with a proposed trail at the Town Forest. Ken and I did a trail walk the last weekend of March. I will differ to Mr. Dickinson.

- K Dickinson: We walked the perimeters of the property to see the state of the trails. I sketched in the main skidder trails that were not there in 1993. We identified some areas where we need to do some additional work to do a perimeter trail. One starts at the proposed kiosk entry and involves connecting some existing skidder trails. In Area 2 there are some faint trails along the eastern boundary, about 500 feet. It is pretty open so it is mostly signage to indicate where the trail goes. As you loop around to the power lines, between the two skidder trails that are shown, it shows a trail that was proposed but never built. The upper portion is very open and just a matter of picking around the boulders and trees that are there. As you cross over the main skidder trail that bisects the area it is mostly shrubby. It is pretty easy trail work with some trail restoration or a wooden boardwalk for about 50 feet. We had talked in the past about doing a kiosk and doing an inventory of the trees, the species and caliper. The parcel has limited forestry potential and probably does not make sense to do a harvest right away. We are awaiting fund to do the forest management plan and to contact the forester who put the plan together. It would make sense to some trail work. A lot of this work is very easily done by few people on a low budget.
- J Battis: We had previously discussed using the proposed \$1500 Stewardship Funds to update the Forestry Plan with the intent of getting the lot certified as a Tree Farm. We need to look at our budget.
- K Dickinson: As a first step I would go out to confirm the alignment and distance. If I had the help of one other person it could be done pretty quickly. I propose 21 April
- P. Dubay: 9:00 am.

Town Forest Trail site walk scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on 21 April.

B. Circumferential Highway Impact

- J Battis: Nothing was done this past month.
- K Dickinson: I think it is best to wait until we are in the growing season.

V. FINANCIAL STATUS:

- J Battis: When Fiscal 2014 starts in July, we will be under the default budget. We had proposed a budget of \$36,926. The default budget will be \$35,639, a decrease of \$1,287. That was essentially the funds for Stewardship. As time goes on we will have to revisit our budget. Right now we have expended 128% of our budget. They have encumbered the \$28,500 cost of the herbicide treatment. Some of this will be rebated by the state grant. The treatment will be in the June timeframe. I would like to ask the commission to authorize the use of conservation funds to support the DASH operations for the first half of the year.
- R Brownrigg: Is this done yearly?
- J Battis: Yes, at this point we are talking 5 days before July 1st. It will vary with plant growth conditions and other factors.
- R Brownrigg: Is this put out to bid?
- J Battis: Yes.
- R Brownrigg: Does the diver have to be certified?

- J Battis: Yes. At this point I would entertain a motion at expend up to \$8,000 for the remainder of Fiscal 2013 for up to 10 days of DASH operation at Ottarnic and Robinson Pond. The funding would come largely from the Pond Reclamation CRF and Pond Donation Funds.
- P Dubay: This comes out of the encumbered funds?
- J Battis: No. The encumbered funds of \$28,500 are for the actual herbicide treatment at Robinson Pond.
- K Dickinson: When is that treatment due?
- J Battis: I have heard as late as 24 June. We probably will not use the five days at Robinson Pond but we should include it.
- R Brownrigg: If the treatment begins that late how would they use five days at Robinson Pond?
- J Battis: I suggest we authorize 10 days total and we might not expend the full amount.
- R Brownrigg: How long does it take to do each treatment?
- J Battis: The treatment is very quick acting and is essentially a one day operation. In the past we have used chemicals that you have had to maintenance the concentration over a period of time, a week or so. In this case, you have a single application. A couple days later you can do the DASH operation. I would recommend authorizing the full 10 days.
- R Brownrigg: If it wasn't used it would carry over into the next year?
- J Battis: Yes. It would go into the Conservation Fund.
- K Dickinson: There has been a lot of preparation and work done this year and years past to continue this program. I don't see anything to suggest not proceeding with the plan. I understand that treating the pond earlier in the season is preferred. Do we know the date?
- J Battis: This is not official but I have heard sometime in June. I think it is the permitting process. They have notified all the abutters about the treatment and I believe there has been a legal notice in the paper. But I think they still have to get permits from the State and Federal government and that may set the timeline. The date I have heard is sometime in June.
- R Brownrigg: Does it work on the temperature of the water?
- J Battis: I am not sure. You want the plants growing so they ingest the chemical but what makes then say one day over another I do not know.
- K Dickinson: I have read about a treatment in Florida and it must have been pretty warm when they did it but it worked out pretty well.

Motion to authorize up to 10 days of DASH operation with a cost of \$8,000 at Robinson and Ottarnic Pond.

Motion by: K Dickinson

Second by: P Dubay

Vote: For 4 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- P Dubay: If we spend the \$8,000 and the \$28,500 they have already charged us we will go way below our budget.
- J Battis: Remember these numbers are against our budget. When it comes time to pay, we will ask the Selectmen to use funds from the Pond Reclamation Fund and Donation Funds and, we agreed to use about \$10,000 from the Conservation Fund to pay for these operations for this fiscal year. The default budget has no impact on this table for this fiscal year. Next fiscal year we were projecting we would use \$293 from the Conservation Fund so if we don't reduce our

expenditures in some other line we would use about \$1500 from the Conservation Fund. After that, as the costs of herbicide treatments at Ottarnic Pond are lower, we should start to recover some of those funds assuming a constant budget.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve March 11, 2013 minutes with noted corrections.

Motion by: P Dubay

Seconded by K Dickinson

Vote: For 3 Opposed 0 Abstained 1

VIII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

- K Dickinson: Great presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Pat and I were there to support him. We appreciate the feedback and recommendation from the Selectmen. I look forward to getting some trail work done. I commend Sandra for her work at Musquash. I welcome Mr. Brownrigg as well.
- R Brownrigg: I appreciate that. Mr. Maddox said if you don't win Selectmen why don't you go on the Conservation Commission because I spoke so highly about Musquash. I am looking forward to working with all of you. It has been a while since I have been out in the woods swinging an ax or a machete. It should be interesting.
- P Dubay: Welcome to Mr. Brownrigg. Hopefully we will have more volunteers to the Board. It was good to get feedback from the Board of Selectmen.
- N Brucker: Welcome to Randy. The Conservation Commission is one of the Boards where everybody does so much volunteer work. It takes a lot of work. The Selectmen really appreciate it. I want to thank Jim for the presentation the other night at the meeting. Hoping for another good year and thank you all.
- J Battis: I appreciate all the comments. Welcome, Randy. It is a little different than most of the other committees in that we do go out on site walks. I appreciate your support for the Board of Selectmen and for the response they gave us. As with all volunteers, we appreciate the recognition.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion by: R Brownrigg

Seconded by: P Dubay

Vote: For 4 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

James Battis, Chairman