

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 4, 2003**

Members present: Cathy Thibeault, Kevin Fife, Rich Bellerose, Diane Moreau, Christopher Hunt. Also present: Ken Norton, Winn. River Trail and Eliza Conde, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Cathy Thibeault at 7:45 pm. Ken Norton presented an update on the status of the Winnepesaukee River Trail project. Phase I will begin construction in the fall. Phase II has been funded but is in the process of planning. The proposed location on the Tilton side of the river involves building a bridge across the river and considerable expense in creating the trail on the north side of the rail road track. Because it is an active track, the trail has to be located 12 feet from the track. This means the rail track will be between the trail and the river. The committee had considered the possibility of creating the trail on the south, Northfield side, but were advised one landowner would not give an easement. Now that that owner has sold, and that Spaulding is interested in selling a parcel to the Town, the committee would like to look at this location again. The expense of creating the trail from scratch would not be more than building a bridge across the river. The south side of the river would be more aesthetically pleasing for the trail. It was decided that Ken would talk with representatives of Spaulding Youth Center and set up a joint meeting with Spaulding, the Conservation Commission and the Winnepesaukee River Trail Committee.

Christopher Hunt moved and Kevin Fife seconded to accept the minutes of May 7, 2003 as read. Motion passed.

Watershed to Wildlife has scheduled July 1, July 11 and July 15 for on site visits to various resources of interest in Northfield. Members will be reminded by email if they care to join the tour.

The Corliss Farm easement application to the Farm and Ranch Protection Program was filed. The amount requested was \$122,500 or half of the appraised value of the easement. The Corliss' are asking \$500,000 for the easement requiring additional funding from grants and/or the town. The fundraising for the Doubleday easement is at approximately \$14,000 at this time. The purchase and sale agreement has been extended to June, 2004 and an additional 50 feet has been added to the easement parcel. The additional time allows the Conservation Commission to apply for grants.

Rich Bellerose has taken charge of the Cow Patty Bingo to be held at Old Home Day. He has the fencing and line making machine lined up. Cathy Thibeault will order 50 t-shirts and 400 tickets and the committee will work on selling both before Old Home Day. Eliza Conde is in charge of lining up the perfect cow, supplying her transportation and food. Diane Moreau will get plastic banners for advertising. Cathy Thibeault will find three judges for the event. The Bingo will be held next to the Fire Station from 3-5 pm. There will be 400 squares and tickets will be \$10 or 3/\$25. Rules of the game will be posted so

that everyone is aware of the process. The prize will be \$500 or 20% of the ticket sales whichever is less. Members were urged to sell as many tickets as possible.

The booth for Old Home Day will feature a menagerie of turtles, tree frogs and whatever else Diane Moreau can find lurking in the grasses. There will also be Conservation Easement information available with pictures of the Corliss and Doubleday properties. T-shirts will be available at the booth and Kevin and Polly Fife will sell Rhubarb tea. The Commission will request a location near the road so that the Cow Patty Bingo can be seen to help sell tickets.

The Commission reviewed several letters from DES concerning wetland violations on property of Warren Cate, ALV Inc and Tracy Reynolds.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary