

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 2, 2004**

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

Christopher Hunt moved, seconded by Kevin Fife, to accept the minutes of May 5, 2004 as read. Motion passed.

Spaulding: Cathy Thibeault updated the Commission on the progress regarding the Spaulding Youth Center land. The Selectmen have approved the method suggested by Atty. Bart Mayer making a down payment this year and having an option to buy within 4 years. This method can be done without a town meeting vote.

NRI: Final payment has been received from the Moose Plate grant program for the NRI.

Doubleday easement: The Commission reviewed the preliminary easement map and the easement document. There was concern about the lack of wording relative to the cutting or non-cutting of trees and how to best address any future cutting of trees on the easement property. Cathy Thibeault moved, seconded by Diane Moreau to add the following purpose on page 2 of the proposed document: "It is the intent of this easement to preserve the existing continuous canopy of trees within this easement to preserve the forested, natural and aesthetic character of Knowles Pond". Following discussion of whether there should be additional conditions similar to those in the Lakes Region Land Trust's easement documents or whether more details would add more confusion, the motion passed.

Corliss easement: Cathy Thibeault reported that she was notified that Northfield did not receive the grant primarily because of the lack of matching funds.

Gallo: Cathy Thibeault updated the Commission on the continued siltation of the stream in the pasture on the Gallo property. Horses are still allowed in the area even though one side is fenced off. Christopher Hunt stated that the whole field has no grass and that there is now silt has traveled approximately 1000 feet down into the woods. The Conservation Commission has tried to work with the Gallos and Soil Conservationist Bill Hoey had given specific suggestions to correct the problem. Because the remedies have not been completed Christopher Hunt moved, Kevin Fife seconded, to send a wetlands violation notice to DES relative to the Gallo property. Motion passed.

Cross Mill Village: Cathy Thibeault reported that the plans had been reviewed and it was discovered that they were designed for a 10-year storm. Since the town's site plan regulations require designs for a 25-year storm, a letter was sent to DES suggesting a design for at least a 25-year storm, preferably for a 50-year storm.

Old Home Day: T-shirts are ordered but not in yet. Need signs to post for Cow Patty Bingo. Rich requested a sign for the fence acknowledging the Robichauds. Will get announcements out to radio, tv and newspapers relative to the Cow Patty Bingo.

Diane Moreau announced that the Knowles Pond Committee will be working on Old Home Day presentations on June 17.

Diane Moreau also reported that Mark St. Cyr had contacted her relative to the beaver dam below Sandogardy Pond which is raising the level of the pond. The town has tried unsuccessfully to get someone to trap the beavers and has given Mr. St. Cyr permission to trap them himself. Discussion of possibly installing a beaver box and how to proceed followed. Diane Moreau will follow up with Joyce Fulweiler.

Cathy Thibeault reported that the Selectmen have requested and received a re-hearing on the SJ Equip. variance relative to the I-93 buffer. The Con. Comm. appreciated the fact that the Selectmen thought their suggestion of allowing a variance for the first 400+- feet was a good compromise.

Kevin Fife noted that Bill Caveney has benches ready to be installed at Knowles Pond when the ground is a bit drier.

Christopher Hunt noted that the town has plans to improve Knowles Pond Road and this would be a good time to work together to improve the shoreline of the pond.

Cathy Thibeault reported that Lisa Martin is putting together a plan for Dam repairs for a culvert which has been frost heaved and made inoperable. The DES has given preliminary approval for repair to the outlet.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary