

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 6, 2004**

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

**Premium Builders:** Chairman Cathy Thibeault read letters from Albert Cross, Road Agent and DES relative to the wetlands permit and driveway permit for Tax Map R15, Lot 63-2. Premium Builders has not been able to obtain a right of way from Knowles Farm Road and has not yet submitted an updated map. Motion made by Christopher Hunt, seconded by Kevin Fife that the Conservation Commission will send a letter to DES noting that it has not seen the updated map which should include culverts on the property and that the Conservation Commission would like the town engineer to review this updated map. Motion passed.

**Winnepesaukee River Trail:** Ken Norton announced that there will be a ground breaking ceremony for the first section of the trail on Oct. 7. The Committee is now working on Phase two of the trail which will probably run on the south side of the Winnepesaukee River through Northfield. Spaulding Youth Center has agreed to grant an easement on the east side of I-93 and two other landowners are willing to work with the committee. They have expressed concern about the location of the trail, particularly if it has to be outside the 50' setback along the river. The proposed easement is 30', although the actual trail is 8-12 feet wide. This makes 80 feet of unusable land on the two private landowner's properties. There are areas where the trail will either need to bypass wetlands or perhaps have wooden pathways across them. Where the trail needs to go under the highway it will have to be adjacent to the river. Spaulding is also concerned about tying up 80 feet of shore frontage to accommodate the trail and the setback requirements. Mr. Norton stated that it would be aesthetically more pleasing to have the trail near the river. Diane Moreau asked if it is required that rescue vehicles be able to access the entire trail. Yes and no.....they seem to allow areas where they can reach within ½ mile of any section of the trail. DOT has certain requirements for trail access as they are funding the construction.

Cathy Thibeault reviewed the Northfield Zoning Ordinance and determined that park and recreational uses are allowed within the setbacks and therefore would not need a variance to be within the 50' setback from the river. Christopher Hunt commented that "trails are groovy" and the town would not require a variance. However, DES has requirements that need to be met and they would have the final say on the location. The Conservation Commission agreed to walk the potential trail with Ken Norton at 9:00 am October 15, 2004.

**Minutes:** Cathy Thibeault noted that the Smiths and Premium Builders are currently in a boundary line dispute. Christopher Hunt moved, seconded by Diane Moreau to accept the minutes of September 1, 2004. Motion passed.

**Mail:**

- NHCC bill for 2005, \$225. Wait until 2005 to pay
- Merr. River Advisory Comm. is looking for a new member representing Northfield
- DES: Blue Sky approval
- DES: Crowley approval
- DES: Cross Mill Village approval
- Annual Con. Comm. State meeting
- Questionnaire completed
- UNH Natural Resources: Diane Moreau will contact them for a possible NRI of the Skendugardy swamp.
- Watershed conference

**Newsletter:** Items to be included: Cow Patty Bingo winners, Billy Caveney's project, Doubleday easement completed, plans for trails, etc. looking for help; Suggest residents clean up roadways near their homes; Need volunteers to help with trail maintenance.

**CIP:** Member needed from Conservation Commission. The CIP should include what the Conservation Commission plans to spend on projects over the years.

**Goals:** Members will think about them for the next meeting.

**Knowles Pond Comm.:** Diane Moreau noted that the committee is getting burned out and new help is needed to keep up with the trail maintenance. The dam is being repaired and Lisa Martin is overseeing the project.

**Mark Hayes:** Mr. Hayes, owner of Highland Ski Area would like to repair truck and ATV ruts near the two ponds and repair the culvert by the pump house. He wants to clean the area up and will probably need a dredge and fill permit to do so. He has requested that the Conservation Commission look at it and make recommendations. Christopher Hunt agreed to visit the site to see what would be needed to complete the repairs.

**Terra Firma:** Christopher Hunt asked if the Conservation Commission would suggest to Terra Firma that they take advantage of the Open Space Ordinance which would give him one more lot but use a smaller area and protect the wetlands. Chris observed that this is an important watershed and wetlands area for the aquifer and wildlife. Christopher Hunt moved, seconded by Kevin Fife to send a letter to the Planning Board to suggest Terra Firma consider using the Open Space zoning ordinance to allow one more lot and protect the wetland areas. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Eliza Conde, Secretary