

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 5, 2006
MINUTES

Members present: Diane Moreau, Cathy Thibeault, Kevin Fife, Rich Bellerose. Also present: Eliza Conde, Secretary, Mary Lee, Chris Hunt and Kathy Fife.

Mary Lee, Northfield's representative to UMLAC asked members to support the "Oxbow Initiative's" opposition to locating a solid waste landfill on the banks of the Merrimack River. The sandy banks of the river are eroding at a fairly rapid rate and it doesn't make sense to locate the landfill on this unstable area so close to the river. Members signed the petition and Diane Moreau moved, seconded by Kevin Fife to send a letter from the Conservation Commission to the Governor, Ray Burton, Peter Spaulding and DES with copies to the Selectmen and the Oxbow Initiative. Motion passed.

Mary Lee asked the members to consider supporting "pay as you go" for garbage in Northfield to encourage recycling. It was agreed that recycling needs to be encouraged and that perhaps the Conservation Commission can get involved in studying methods to help.

Chris Hunt, representing the Planning Board asked members to walk the Sarber/LaRoche lot on Shaker Road. The Planning Board visited the site and is concerned about the applicant's request for a lot on the banks of Whicher Brook. He requested that Conservation members walk the property to point out important resources, decide whether a wildlife study is appropriate and give input on the best location for development. Members agreed to visit the property at 4:00 pm Saturday, April 8, 2006 if permission is granted from the owners.

Kathy Fife talked with members about a Natural Resources Inventory for the Smart Conservation Area. The PSNH grant will be used to fund this project. Kathy was looking for input from the board as to what is needed at this time. It was decided that a map similar to the one for Knowles Pond showing the location of a proposed trail and interesting points of interest highlighted was the best use of the grant dollars. Kathy will present the board with a proposal at the next meeting.

Conservation signs: Rich Bellerose moved, seconded by Diane Moreau to purchase 250 aluminum signs from Voss, green on white, "Northfield Conservation Land Boundary". Motion passed.

Wethersfield: Cathy Thibeault had received a complaint about dirt bikes in the streams and 4 wheelers in the swamp. It was agreed to send a general educational letter to all residents of Wethersfield relative to wetlands.

Stewardship Plan: Cathy Thibeault will email the plan to members for their ok and then present it to the Selectmen at their next meeting.

Wetlands application: Witzgull, Haggett Farm Road. Members reviewed the application for driveway and pond with impact to wetlands. As the plans appeared to be complete, no comment will be sent to DES.

Correspondence:

- DES – Town of Northfield, Oak Hill Road
- DES – George Corliss
- DES – Witzgull
- Lake Assessment Workshop – will send to Alan & Cindy Leach

Subdivision plans:

Larosa: After review of the plans, a letter will be sent to the Planning Board with the following comments:

1. As per the Northfield Zoning Ordinance, the wetlands must be removed from the acreage calculation. It does not appear that these lots have allowed for the wetlands.
2. The lots do not meet the required 4-1 depth ratio.
3. Lot 4 has a brook through it which could make building difficult with the required wetland buffer setback.

Old Home Day: Kevin and Polly Fife will not be available on that day. Members agreed to sell Polly's Rhubarb tea if she will make it. No new tee shirts will be ordered, no Cow Patty Bingo. Discussion of things to include in the booth such as recycling, Squam Lakes Science Center, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary