

**NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
MAY 3, 2006**

Members present: Rich Bellerose, Cathy Thibeault, Kevin Fife, Andy Mierins. Also present: Eliza Conde, Secretary, Rick Fink and Dwayne Sarber.

Laroche/Sarber Special Use Permit: Rick Fink, representing the applicant, reviewed the plans for a three lot subdivision on Shaker Road. The applicant is planning further development of the back land which will require development of a new road. Until that proposed road is constructed, the applicant proposes to utilize the existing woods road to access Lot 2. As the woods road needs upgrading and is within the 50 foot wetlands buffer, a Special Use Permit is required. They plan to relocate the woods road for approximately 200 feet in order to avoid a wetland area. The rest of the woods road will not involve any disturbance of soil, as the plan is to use 6 inches of gravel over a geo fabric material. The plan also calls for installing a 10' x 12' steel plate over the existing culvert in order to accommodate heavy equipment.

The plan is to eliminate the temporary driveway upon completion of the new road. The new road will have 3 wetlands impacts with the least possible disturbance. The woods road is not within the wetlands, but is within the buffer. DES has requested that the woods road be eliminated in order to restore it to it's original state. This will be part of the mitigation process when application is made to DES for the proposed road. Cathy Thibeault asked why access is not being considered from either South Road or Twin Bridge Road. The land does not abut South Road, and there is only 40 feet frontage on Twin Bridge Road. The location of that frontage next to Whicher Brook and near the junction of South Road and Twin Bridge Road would not allow access for a town road.

After learning that the woods road has been used by the Corliss Farm for moving cattle from farm to pasture, Andy Mierins asked if the Corliss' might have an easement for this use. It seems that it has just been a verbal agreement between neighbors. Mr. Fink indicated that the future proposed development may be using an "open space" plan and at least part of the road may be available for the cattle. Cathy Thibeault expressed concern about the strength of the steel plate over the culvert which shows signs of failure. Mr. Fink showed calculations which confirm the strength of the plate. Kevin Fife asked about the proposed 3 sided bridge for the new road. Mr. Fink explained that DES does not want a culvert installed because crawling critters do not travel on the new surface. DES wants the natural surface of the brook to remain, therefore they require a span with 2 sides and the top road layer.

Rich Bellerose moved, seconded by Kevin Fife to send a recommendation of approval of the Special Use Permit to the Planning Board. Motion passed.

Minutes: Kevin Fife moved, seconded by Andy Mierins to approve the minutes of April 5, 2006 as read. Motion passed.

Oxbow: Patricia Bass of Oxbow Coalition asked the Conservation Commission to urge the Selectmen to voice their concern about the location of the land fill on the Merrimack River. Cathy will ask Mary Lee to join her in meeting with the Selectmen.

Planning Board applications:

Muehlen: After reviewing the plans, Kevin Fife moved, seconded by Rich Bellerose to send letters to both the ZBA and PB recommending that this application be denied on the basis of Article 6j of the Groundwater Protection Ordinance which prohibits automotive repair and service within the groundwater protection area. Motion passed.

Stewardship Plan: Will have the plan for the next meeting to be adopted.

NRI/Smart Conservation area: A proposal was received from Kathy Fife to conduct a Natural Resources Inventory on the Smart Cons. Area. Funds for this project are from the PSNH grant received in 2005. Members will review the proposal and if more bids are required by the town they will be sought. Andy Mierins will review the insurance issue in #12 of the contract.

Cleanup – Smart Conservation area: 9am to 12 noon - May 20. Members to meet at the end of Cofran Ave. Will notify Ron Dunlop.

Old Home Day: Discussion of possibilities with no decisions made.

Correspondence:

- Conservation District meeting
- Oak Hill Bridge
- DES – trees and shrubs for shorelines
- NHCES – Natural Resources program
- DES – Haggett Farm Road driveway
- Five Rivers meeting
- E-mail from Michelle Davis relative to Cross Mill Village wetlands violation. Cathy Thibeault will visit the sight and take pictures and if appropriate submit a wetlands violation complaint.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary