

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
JULY 24, 2012
MINUTES

Members present: Rich Bellerose, Dave Krause and Kevin Fife.

A public hearing was held in conjunction with the Selectmen to discuss the proposed purchase of a portion of R17 Lot 42 on Rand Road. The purpose of the purchase is to protect the area surrounding Knowles Pond, provide additional area for trails and protect wildlife corridors.

Comments from the public were:

- Bob Southworth asked what the purpose of the purchase is and whether the abutters have been notified.
- Derek LaCourciere asked what the cost would be to taxpayers.
- Kevin Waldron asked what the tax consequences would be and what the purchase would do for him.
- Bob Southworth expressed concern for the abutters who would have more people visiting the area and that the property has lots of wetlands.
- Geoff Ziminski responded that if the property were to be developed there would be many more people and houses on the property.
- Derek LaCourciere asked if the Selectmen have a formula for balancing Conservation land with land to be developed.
- George Flanders asked how much land the town already has in Conservation. Approximately 150 acres. Kevin Fife pointed out that Canterbury has about 4,000 acres in Conservation and that Northfield's percentage is very low. Kevin added that the proposed purchase abuts the Knowles Pond area and will allow for more trails.
- Rich Bellerose stated that the owner offered the land to the town first and if not purchased, he will offer it for developments. Several homes on that land will cause more traffic and noise than a few trails. He added that the Commission has been approached by other landowners wishing to sell their land, but those properties did not have Conservation value and were not purchased.
- Lisa Martin commented that it is good to buy Conservation land and people have to trust that the Commission has thought about how this land fits in the plans and that it is within the goal of benefiting the town.
- On learning that there is about \$50,000 in the Conservation Fund, Bev Cullen commented that it might be better to build up that fund in order to purchase a larger piece of land.

Public hearing closed at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza Conde, Secretary

Minutes approved 08-22-2012