

HILLSBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 12, 2012

Official Minutes

Present:

Commissioners: Ted Millspaugh, Chair; Linda White, Vice-chair; Terry Yeaton; Brett Cherrington; Richard Head

John P. Segedy, Recording Secretary

Chris Pinkham

Brian Hotz

Mike Marchand

Hope Thomas

Meeting called to order by Chair Millspaugh at 7:05 PM.

Public Business

1. Hope Thomas Easement

Richard Head recused himself from consideration of this matter.

Linda White noted that she had sent copies of the easement with some amendments that had been sent to her by Sarah Pillsbury since the last meeting.

Linda White said it specified that there would only be posting during agricultural or forestry operations.

There was discussion of public access.

Hope Thomas said that she had decided she would prefer to just keep it simple. She said that this specified the only conditions for posting, and that otherwise the law permitted access although she thinks it is appropriate for people to ask permission to enter someones land even if the law doesn't require it. Hope said that although she was granting the easement, it still will remain private property.

Ted Millspaugh said that the concern had been that looking to the future a subsequent owner might feel differently than she did.

Brett Cherrington said that he had been concerned about the clause in the previous version requiring permission be obtained to access the property in that it might not be practical for a member of the public to do so for example if a future owner lived out of state. He said it appears that clause has been removed from this latest version.

Brett Cherrington moved: *That changes to the proposed Hope Thomas Conservation Easement as outlined in the Version dated January 9, 2012 and e-mailed to the Commission January 10, 2012 specifying posting only for agricultural and forestry purposes and removing the requirement for the public obtaining permission to access the easement are acceptable to the Commission.*

Seconded by Linda White. Motion passed 4-0.

Linda White said she will convey this information to Sarah Pillsbury.

Richard Head Un-recused himself.

2. Public Hearing re Expenditure of money from the Conservation Fund for Expenses related to the Establishment of the Wenney-Baker Forest on Thompson Hill by The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF).

Ted Millspaugh opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 pm.

Richard Head referenced RSA 674:7 and RSA 36-A:5 regarding Public Hearings and said that since this money was not for the purchase of land, but for expenses to help SPNHFF establish the forest, he did not believe that a Public Hearing was necessary. Nonetheless he was not against having it as he believes it is good and appropriate to let the public know that they are doing this.

Ted Millspaugh asked John Segedy to read back the motion approved on December 8.

John Segedy read:

Richard Head moved: *To authorize the granting of \$17,000.00 to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) for use toward the expenses related to the SPNHF's establishment of the 375 acre Wenny-Baker Forest in Hillsborough, NH. This grant is subject to the following conditions:*

- 2. The closing on the property occurs on or before March 1, 2012, time being of the essence.*
- 3. The property is not sold or otherwise transferred.*
- 4. The property is not subdivided.*
- 5. No development or building construction occurs on the property except as necessary to further conservation purposes associated with the property.*
- 6. The land is not otherwise utilized in a manner inconsistent with general land conservation purposes.*

This grant is authorized based on the general representations described in a memo dated November 25, 2011 from the SPNHF to the Hillsborough Conservation Commission which has been relied upon by the Conservation Commission in the granting of this grant.

Linda White seconded.

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Motion passed 7-0.

Brian Hotz said SPNHF is proceeding on the project and he would be glad to answer any questions that members of the public had.

Chris Pinkham said that he is directly affected as his property is surrounded by the subject property and public access to the property is adjacent to his house. He said he has maintained the parking area and entry to the property for 26 years. Chris said he is happy to see the property is being protected and that it will be a benefit to the town.

Chris Pinkham said that he would like to see the trail head and parking area moved away from his property.

Brian Hotz answered that SPNHF was planning on abandoning that entryway and establishing a new entry trail away from the Pinkham property.

Chris Pinkham said that he would like to meet with them (SPNHF) when they start planning that as he has some ideas about where to move the entry due to his familiarity with the property.

Brian Hotz said that they would be happy to meet with him.

Brian Hotz informed the Commission that they had closed on the property in December. He said they had raised about \$10,000.00 in private donations besides what they were asking the Conservation Commission to contribute and were still planning to do a fund raising mailing.

Brian Hotz said that the official name of the property will be "The Wenney-Baker Forest on Thompson Hill"

Ted Millspaugh asked if there was any further Public Comment.

Richard Head moved: *To reaffirm the grant of \$17,000.00 authorized by the Conservation Commission on December 8, 2011.*

Terry Yeaton seconded. Motion passed 5-0

Minutes

1. December 22, 2011

Linda White and Brett Cherrington suggested some changes.

Linda White moved: *To approve the minutes of December 22, 2011 as revised.*

Seconded by Brett Cherrington. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Richard Head abstained).

Correspondence

1. **DES – Septic Application missing information** (M 7, L 157).
2. **Intent to Cut – Sawmill Rd.** (M 11G, L 285).
3. **Moosewood Ecological, LLC – Bill.** Ted Millspaugh will submit it for payment.
4. **Hillsborough Planning Board – Notification of Application for Minor Subdivision & Lot Line Adjustment – Carr Road** (M 1, Lots 51 & 27).

The Commission discussed the proposal. Consensus was that the Commission had no problem or comments about the proposal.

Old Business

1. **Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)** – Nothing to act on at this time.

New Business

1. **News Article** – Ted Millspaugh complemented on her interview that appeared on the front page of the Villager about the Wenney-Baker Forest on Thompson Hill.

2. **Annual Report** – Ted Millspaugh shared a Draft he had prepared for the Commissions Report to go in the Town's 2011 Annual Report. The Commission reviewed and discussed the draft making various suggestions.

Ted Millspaugh said he would compile the suggestions into the report for the next meeting.

Adjournment

Brett Cherrington moved: *To adjourn.*

Richard Head seconded. Passed 5-0 at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

John P. Segedy
Recording Secretary
Approved January 26, 2012