

**MINUTES OF THE
CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

January 15, 2009

The meeting convened at 10 am.

Attending were: Bruce Bond, Chairman; Maureen Criasia; Helen Heiner; Karin Karagozian; Harry Viens; and JoAnn Wood, Secretary. Randy Mattson, representing the SB, also attended.

I. The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved without correction.

II. Updates on:

A. The annual report. The commissioners agreed with Bruce's premise that as the report's purpose was primarily to inform the public of the Commission's activities, we should refrain from adding enormous amounts of detail. Randy had one factual change to the last paragraph (i.e., the Commission has worked with the Squam Lakes Conservation Society and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust rather than with the Squam Lakes Association).

B. The Planning Board . Three issues before the Planning Board are of concern to the CC:

- The 'dark sky' initiative (which the NH Legislature is considering adopting statewide) will be incorporated into the master plan. Unfortunately, it was not official when the Music Festival presented its plans and cannot be forced on them retroactively
- A reworded petition to ban construction of new boathouses will be presented at town meeting. The PB split on this issue 3:3. As the CC strongly supports the banning of new boathouses on all lakes, it will prepare a fact sheet to be handed out at TM
- The PB hired a professional 'circuit planner' to review the Music Festival's plans to build a concert hall, with particular attention paid to such areas of concern as lighting, landscaping (with attendant drainage issues), noise, and traffic. The planner concluded that thus far, festival plans don't adequately address these issues.

Helen is further concerned that

- The Festival seems to have applied to DES for an "Alteration of Terrain" permit (RSA 485-A:17) without having given either the PB or the CC a chance to weigh in.

- They might consider this permission sufficient to begin construction even though PB is waiting for their written plan addressing the above issues
- There are also rumors of plans down the road to build a campus of cottages, etc.

Randy thought they'd have to have an official town building permit to begin any construction (the next Zoning Board meeting is scheduled for January 26). And all commissioners agreed that it couldn't hurt to send our views to DES. Bruce and Maureen agreed to draft the letter and email it to other commissioners.

C. The Energy Committee. Bernie Volz of the EC is currently working on a piece of 'dark sky' legislation. Harry asked if the town's dark-sky initiative will apply to residential as well as public and commercial buildings.

D. The prime wetlands project...

- According to Bruce, Rick Van der Poll is about 2/5ths of the way through the study
- Maureen reported that he was having trouble getting access to the Hale Swamp - although the ice is solid enough now so that he can observe the complex without straying onto private land

...with a brief foray into the NRI....

- Randy confirmed that there will be a warrant article requesting funding for the NRI. She will try to get it onto the schedule before the town takes up the issue of reorganizing CC funding
- Once the CC knows what its funding will be (for the NRI) it can ask Rick to propose a study that will incorporate merging the NRI with the Master Plan

...and a further revisiting of the Warrant Articles clarifying CC funding.

The strategy will be as follows

- The SB will request that 25% of LUCT funds be placed in the Conservation Fund. The CC will be able to spend that money as it sees fit without further town approval, subject always, of course, to SB approval. If that amendment does not pass,
- A second article would give the CC authority to spend that money on when specific needs arise, like the NRI.

We agree that we will need to be prepared to support these warrant articles at town meeting. To that end, Maureen agrees to draft talking points supporting our position.

E. Permits/applications. No new applications were received. And alas, the ZB has approved the Olsheski's application.

With no new business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Wood
Secretary