

**MINUTES OF THE
CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

March 3, 2009

The meeting convened at 10 am.

Attending were: Bruce Bond, Chairman; Maureen Criasia, Harry Viens, and JoAnn Wood, Secretary. Randy Mattson represented the Board of Selectmen.

I. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved with one minor correction: The Warrant Article number on page 2 should read # 31 (rather than #30).

II. Rick Van de Poll joined the meeting to discuss his progress on the Prime Wetlands study. He has essentially completed his field work and, provided LRPC can work up the necessary maps, is on track to submit to DES the final report by the end of March. Further, he has some assurance from his contact there that the study will be expedited.

A. He reviewed his basic methodology and findings, and showed the new maps that resulted from his on-site, GPS, and aerial studies.

Regarding the issue of proper wetlands boundaries, the commission spent a significant amount of time debating the meaning of the word ‘significant’.

- The major concern had been that the wetland parameters that voters approved in 2006 were significantly inaccurate and that another vote might have to be taken.
- However, careful study of the wetlands, showed that in most instances (significant, all) a case could be made for proceeding without further voter approval. For example,
 - - in the Paquette/Mug complex
 - o The total wetlands area is larger than is shown on our 2007 map; however, a significant portion consists of man-made wetland, which, when added to the natural marshy area results in a major wildlife habitat
 - o the owner is committed to protecting the area
 - - The Hale Swamp shows the greatest deviation from the 2007 map, but he feels the wetlands boundaries would be adjusted to landowners’ advantage
- And finally, referral back to the 1975 LRCT map, would seem to suggest that the wetlands delineated at that time would seem to match his findings in all – you guessed it – significant ways.

B. He alerted the commission to several cases where landowners would seem to be in violation of basic DES regulations. For example:

- Although the owners of the Paquette/Mug complex strive to protect their wetlands areas, one abutter, a Meredith resident, has created a dump of sorts that actually encroaches on Paquette land and that discharges toxic material into the waterway
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- Hale Swamp is also impacted by violations and thus affects both Squam and Hawkins pond.

Apparently Meredith, which is also affected by these toxic runoffs, has chosen thus far to do nothing. Rick recommended, and the commission concurred, that we should at least begin a paper trail of consultation with the Meredith CC. This will have the added benefit of proving our interest and concern to the towns of Meredith and Center Harbor as well as to the DES. Bruce suggested that when the PW study is released, the commission could begin talks with Meredith to see what could be done. (He mentioned that he is already doing water samples and is finding traces of heavy metals that can only be coming from this scrap yard. DES is aware of these findings.)

C. In summary, the study is almost done. Rick needs to do some fine-tuning of the maps to comply with DES requirements. LRPC will produce these maps for free in exchange for study data. The commission should be able to review these maps at its next meeting (April 7).

III. Other business. In the time remaining, the commission briefly discussed:

A. The bill before the State Senate to scrap the CSPA. The commission agreed to:

- Consult with Carol Andrews of the NHACC to see if she's aware of the bill and if so, what the association is doing about it
- Consult with other local CCs
- Possibly write a letter to our congressmen voicing our disapproval of the bill.

B. Town Meeting. As the commissioners anticipate that there may be some contention over Warrant Article 31, a brief time was spent considering how we might best respond to possible criticisms. Harry Viens nobly volunteered to present the commission's viewpoint, should the need arise.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Wood
Secretary