

**MINUTES OF THE
CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

April 6, 2010

The meeting convened at 10 am. Tuesday, April 6.

Attending were:

- Bruce Bond, Chairman; Maureen Criasia, Karin Karagozian, Harry Viens, and JoAnn Wood, Secretary
- Randy Mattson, representing the Board of Selectmen
- Rick van de Poll of Ecosystem Management Consultants
- Chris Johnson.

I. The minutes of the March 2 meeting were read and approved without correction.

II. Chris Johnson, who owns property encompassing and abutting part of the Johnson-Perkins Wetlands addressed the commission regarding his wish to clear cut a stand of young white pine in order to improve his view of the wetlands. He intends to chip the trees off-site and does not intend to remove the stumps, although he might, in time, grind them down to ground level. The property also includes a man-made pond, and is, not, therefore, a totally unspoiled wetland.

Accordingly, Rick van de Poll voiced his opinion that Chris's plans would not adversely affect the integrity of the wetland area. Specifically, he cited three measures he uses to evaluate proposed activities of this kind:

- Sediment retention - will not be damaged
- Wildlife habitat - will actually improve as the pines will make way for a greater variety of ground cover
- The nutrient situation - will also improve for the same reasons.

On the basis of Rick's findings, the Commission moved to go on record in support of Mr. Johnson's appeal for a waiver from DES. The motion was formally approved and it was agreed that these minutes would serve as notification to DES. Humble secretary was instructed to:

- E-mail that portion of the minutes referring to Chris's project to all the commissioners, Rick, and Chris for corrections as soon as possible
- Once assured that the above deathless prose reflected the wishes of all parties, to signal to Chris that he could proceed in his negotiations with DES.

III. Rick van de Poll addressed the commission regarding

A. The Natural Resources Inventory. Rick produced four preliminary maps to near rapturous applause: *The Wetlands map*; *The Important-soils map*; *the Water Resources map*; *the Ecological Attributes map* (the fifth and final, *Co-occurrence map*, can only be drawn up when the others are finalized).

- All four maps are beautiful and, with some agreed-on changes to make them easier to read, will be highly informative. Commissioners were asked to review them as soon as possible (ahem) to ensure that Rick has all corrections in hand by the end of the month so that he can prepare the final versions.
- Once these maps are in order, Rick will prepare the *Co-occurrence map*, an amalgam of the original four. The commission will need to decide how to weight the information produced by these maps to prioritize the Town's specific interest and long-term conservation goals – for example, the relative importance of developed versus agricultural versus open land.

B. Prime Wetlands, Phase II. Rick reviewed with the commission

- A map showing, in addition to the existing five prime wetlands, three principal new candidates (*Snake River*, *Chamberlain-Reynolds/Heron Cove*, and *Newman Trust land on Center Harbor*) and four secondary candidates (*Fogg Hill Bog*, *Otter Pond*, *Belknap Woods Beaver Ponds*, and *land on Sturtevant Bay* (do we have a name for this land?)) for future prime wetlands designation
- He estimated costs for working through the three primary candidates at \$8720. If the commission should decide to go for all seven suggested sites, the price would be less than double the amount he would charge for the three primes.

No decision was reached at this meeting as to whether to proceed. Bruce said he would be in touch with his contacts in New Hampton to see if they would go in with us to protect the entire Snake River parcel.

And with no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:25. The next meeting will be May 11, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Wood
Secretary

