

**MINUTES OF THE  
CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**December 9, 2008**

The meeting convened at 10:05am.

Attending were:

- From the Commission: Bruce Bond, Chairman; Ellen Bennett; Maureen Criasia; Helen Heiner; Karin Karagozian; Harry Viens; and JoAnn Wood, Secretary
- From the SB: Randy Mattson.

(Sheila Mohan arrived briefly to discuss a requested change of name – from the Mug Complex to the Paquette Complex. The CC agreed that this issue should be decided somewhere else).

**I. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.**

**II. On-going business**

A. Helen reported a quiet Planning Board. However, several activities merit CC attention:

- The PB is now taking into account the issue of ‘dark sky’ when it evaluates such things as new street lighting, etc. (And as an aside, Helen mentioned her frustration in trying to find affordable outdoor lighting for the library)
- Representatives from the NH Music Festival will attend the next PB meeting (12/16) for a formal site plan review. While the PB believes the Festival offers a great opportunity for the town, it, and the SB, have voiced concern over such issues as parking, noise, etc.
- The Master Plan is moving forward and an effort is being made to ensure that conservation concerns feature prominently.
- - The PB hopes to hire a ‘planner circuit rider’ who will work with it to develop the final plan. She mentioned one RFP that actually proposes conducting and integrating an NRI into the plan. As the cost is similar to Rick Van de Poll’s, the CC agreed he should be asked to refigure his proposal to include integration with the Master Plan.
- - As the public might not appreciate the significance of all that the Master Plan is trying to accomplish (Randy and Helen reported that only between 10 – 15% of the population filled out the survey) Harry suggested ‘talking point’ documents summarizing key features of the plan, the CC, the EC, etc.

B. Randy reported on last week's Energy Committee.

- Some time was spent in philosophical discussion
- Some time was spent trying to come up with another promotional project for Town Meeting.

C. Permits/applications.

- The Gurney's on High Haith submitted a minimum impact expedited permit for a dock plus a Shoreline Impact Permit for the house, well, septic system and driveway. The latter will be submitted for site and construction review to the ZB, SB, and PB.
- The Olsheskis revisited. Bruce brought the CC up to date on the on-going saga of the Olsheskis' application to replace the existing 1000sq.ft. summer camp with a 3000sq.ft. year-round house.
  - - The new structure would violate at least five zoning regulations
  - - A ZB meeting was held earlier this month and continued on-site a few days later. Unfortunately, as Chris Williams, the ZB member who most stringently questioned the current plan, was unable to attend. Another ZB meeting will take place next week.

After our last meeting, Maureen and Bruce conducted their own site visit (remaining at all times on the public road). Their major concern continues to be the septic system. The new plans do, however, seem to allow for a new system should the new structure be built.

**III. Updates on:**

A. The Prime Wetlands Study. Janet Kimball has done a sterling job of sending out letters to all abutters and compiling their responses. The general sense is that Rick has by now got all the approvals he's going to get. And once the ice forms, he feels he can get visual access to most of the wetlands in question.

B. The Forest Project.

- JoAnn briefly recounted some second-hand information, to wit: the project seems to be moving forward and certain abutting landowners are very supportive
- Randy reiterated the SB's intention to write a warrant article rescinding the illegal amendment of 1993 so that we will be able to purchase an easement on the forest land guaranteeing public recreational use
- The CC continues to agree that it would be politic to wait until 2010 to present RSA 36-A:4-a,1(b) for voter approval. But once approved, the Town would be able to contribute funds to other organizations for the 'purchase' of lands for conservation.

#### **IV. New Business.**

##### A. Budget issues.

- Randy referred again to the 25% fund that was set aside for conservation use. Legally, that money should have been spent the year it came in and all unspent amounts should then have reverted to the General Fund. That has now happened. She recommended that the money for the NRI come out of the General Fund. To which Karin said, ‘Brilliant!’ To which Helen said, ‘‘Why couldn’t we take the cost of the whole Master Plan package (including the NRI) out of that fund?’’ To which we all said, ‘‘Brilliant’’. To the question of citizens objecting to the dispersal of hard-earned tax dollars, Harry suggested carefully wording the warrant article to ensure that people understand that no new taxes go towards this project.
- The CC discussed the amount it should request in the budget. This year the CC spent \$1901 of its \$2000 allotment; but \$1600 of that went as a first payment for the PW study (the entire project will come out of the Town’s 2008 budget; the CC will show deficit spending but the actual total will be met by unspent budget items). As the CC could conceive of no outstanding financial commitments next year, it formally agreed to again request \$2000.

B. The Annual Report. Bruce agreed to submit this year’s report to Robin no later than the second week of January.

With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned at 12:05.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Wood  
Secretary