

Lebanon Conservation Commission
Special Meeting, 3/9/09
Minutes

John Bendoraitis took photos.

Call to order, 4:40 p.m.

Members present: Keith Laporte, Marc Lang, Alton Blodgett, Jan Fitter, Howard Wayland, Emery Gluck, Jon Slate, Toni Willard

Member absent: David Scata

Also present: Phil Chester, Town Planner

Toni Willard was named acting alternate.

Motion to approve minutes for 2/2/09 meeting; seconded and passed unanimously.

No audience present.

Toni Willard stepped down as acting alternate; Jon Slate designated.

Motion to recommend to Board of Selectmen to reappoint Alton, Jan, Keith, and Toni; seconded and passed unanimously, with recommended appointees not voting.

Jon Slate stepped down as acting alternate; Toni Willard designated.

Phil reported on a successful enforcement action against logging and skidder activity in a conservation easement that is also wetlands. The forester claimed ignorance and has agreed to cease activity and take measures to stabilize the damaged area.

Phil updated the Commission on the governor's efforts to de-fund the Community Investment Act, the source for Ag Viability Grants and farmland preservation funds. The governor proposes to take away the funds dedicated to this program and use them for other purposes.

Discussion of FY 2009 Town open space fund. Motion that Jan should write to the Board of Finance in support of the proposed \$75,000 annual contribution, subject to Marc's review; seconded and passed unanimously.

Phil distributed a flyer for this year's Farmers' Market, which will be held twice a week. Wednesday afternoon has been added to the schedule. There will be at least 20 vendors.

May 20, 7:30 p.m. at Lyman: Town Meeting will decide on accepting this year's Ag Grant. Commission members should attend.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the POCD Committee that the following roads be considered for designation as Scenic Roads under the Town's ordinance: Bogg Lane, Roger Foote Road, Taylor Bridge Road, Tobacco Street Extension, Goshen Hill Road, Fowler Road, Sisson Road, Randall Road, North Street, Village Hill Road, Cook Hill Road.

Discussion: Howard observed that North Street is a good shortcut that is sometimes in such poor condition that people get stuck, and he expressed concern that it will be less well maintained if so designated. It was noted that designation will not interfere with maintenance, that the ordinance specifically mandates that "any road designated as a Scenic Road under the ordinance shall be maintained by the Town, in good and sufficient repair and in passable condition." The motion was passed, all voting aye except Howard, who abstained owing to the inclusion of North Street.

Marc and Alton reported on the Invasive Species Workshop they attended. (Marc has a few field guides for loan to members.) Alton has observed firsthand that waste from scarifying the edges of town roads is dumped in various locations and spreads invasives. Consensus that the Commission should try to help the town establish a policy to avoid the propagation and spread of invasives; such a policy could be recommended for inclusion in the POCD. Alton will begin research into practices in other towns.

Old business. Further discussion of possible subdivision of a parcel that touches three town roads. This is very preliminary; no application has been made. Various points were noted: Moving the proposed house lots eastward would put them farther from a desirable wildlife/wetlands corridor but would harm the view from a town road. (Phil pointed out that the eastern parcel is not part of the subdivision proposal the owner is considering.) The corridor as proposed is (according to usual practice) sufficiently wide to accommodate wildlife, but

wider is always better, and the proposed easement includes no upland buffer to protect wetlands on the side with house lots. However, the owner's proposal would voluntarily designate an easement to protect the wildlife/wetlands corridor and preserve land in agriculture. Rather than requesting that he move the proposed house lots, which are positioned favorably for views, he could be asked to position houses and development within the house lots as far (eastward) from the wetlands/wildlife corridor as possible, perhaps including the westward portions of the house lots as part of the conservation easement. This would position houses closest to the driveway.

Motion to adjourn at c. 6:03 pm; seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Fitter, Ass't Chair/Sec'y