

Lebanon Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting, 10/5/09
Minutes

Call to order, 4:30 p.m.

Members present: Keith Laporte, Marc Lang, Alton Blodgett, Howard Wayland, Jan Fitter, Toni Willard (c.5:00)

Members absent: Emery Gluck, Jon Slate, David Scata

Also present: Town Planner Phil Chester; Warren Church and Madge Manfred of Joshua's Trust

Motion to approve minutes of 9/14/09 regular meeting; correction – Jon will donate a used bar gate; so corrected, motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Warren and Madge offered information about Joshua's Trust, and we discussed issues and experiences in protecting open space. Phil noted JT's key role as a non-governmental option. We thanked them for Joshua Trust's part in the Rechlin preservation. They said a check would be forthcoming at the appropriate time in November.

Useful information: A national land trust alliance accredits local trusts and requires adherence to certain guidelines governing stewardship, among other things. Joshua's Trust has willed properties and endowments that present special management challenges. Outreach is important, as small contributors provide the bulk of funds. The Lebanon Conservation Commission will join. We suggested they set up at one of Lebanon's farmers' markets.

Easement monitoring and management discussed. We need to set up a systematic procedure for town-held or -owned easements.

Phil reported he was able to find out that the federal farm grant program accepts a Class D survey, unlike the state PDR program. Consequently, the survey costs for recent Farm and Ranchland grants will total \$4,000 instead of \$21,000, and money remains of the allocation for soft costs.

No change in status of potential new Farm and Ranchland Grant applicants.

A letter of congratulations will be drafted and sent to Shawn McGillicuddy, Dairy Farm of Distinction award.

Motion to endorse purchase of Koziol property for cemetery land. abuts and will enhance Schalk Road portion of Commons Hill Trail. Letter to Selectmen will be drafted. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn at 5:35pm; seconded and passed unanimously.