

Lebanon Conservation Commission  
Regular Meeting, 1/5/09  
**Minutes**

Call to order, 4:36 p.m.

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

Member absent: Jon Slate

Also present: Phil Chester, Town Planner

Motion to approve minutes for 12/1/08 regular meeting; seconded and passed unanimously.

No audience present.

Capital Planning session: All town bodies are trimming budgets. Marc reduced the request for the open space fund from \$100,000 to \$75,000 for FY 2009. Capital Planning members rated requests by Town priority, and open space funding rated #6.

Jan and Marc have e-mailed Senator Prague's office re state funding for farmland preservation (possible cuts to the Community Investment Act Account would affect the PDR program and Ag. Viability Grant funding). Members are encouraged to contact Senator Prague and Representative Kevin Ryan to express support for retaining funding for these programs and farmland and open space funding in general and opposing cuts.

Conservation Commission budget for FY 2009: Various outreach activities were discussed that might require small funding (e.g., spring litter pick-up, work on footpath). Suggestion to itemize needs to justify higher budget request from \$250 to \$500. A motion was made to request \$500 operating budget for FY 2009; seconded and passed unanimously.

The temporary license agreement has been approved and accepted by Northeast Utilities to cross their right-of-way as part of the footpath to Commons Hill. This will go to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Marc is authorized to sign for the Town. A gate will be needed at the start on Schalk Road, and a sign needs to note points in the license agreement (including permission of hunting), explain blazes, prohibition of motorized vehicles, etc. Minor trail work (brush, limb clearing) will be needed across part of the right of way by commission members.

Phil reported on POCD progress. Lebanon Life accepted an article. Interface with Open space and Natural Resources Plan to be discussed.

Town has received an Ag. Viability Grant of \$4500 for Farmer's Market and appraisals.

Property 09-A: Owners have expressed interest in preserving; is in an important agricultural area, high farmland soils value; rating was done = 16 points. A motion was made to recommend an appraisal be done and to request funding from CFT for match of USDA; seconded and passed unanimously. Easement value probably in the neighborhood of \$100,000.

Phil read a letter from the Rechlin's saying they are postponing going forward. Dean Pagani of JT informed Marc that the Rechlin's will meet shortly with Dean and Warren Church to discuss their concerns about the easement.

Phil updated the commission on ongoing efforts to assist some owners (no number assigned yet) who are committed to preservation – nothing conclusive yet.

Spring litter pick-up discourse: Adopt a road? Boy or Girl Scouts? Barbara Starr runs Troop 180. Alicia Lamb would be Girl Scout contact. Select date with rain date. Reflective vests and waivers probably necessary (signed by parents). We have a couple of months; Earth Day is in April.

Town Hall plaque: Marc and Jan will try to have names for Wayne Budney by mid-next week.

Paula Stahl will present to the Board of Finance on Jan. 8 re tax exemption for farm buildings; in conjunction, Phil will discuss Land Conservation Survey.

Motion to adjourn at 5:50 pm; seconded and passed unanimously.

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