

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

SPECIAL MEETING

**7:00 P.M. MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009
ROOM 219 CROMWELL TOWN HALL
41 WEST STREET**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Laurene McEntire called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates:

Present: Laurene McEntire, Lu Landis, Scott Lamberson, Joseph Corlis and Ernest Pandolfe

Also Present: Town Planner Craig Minor and Selectmen Richard Newton

Absent: Anthony Varricchio Jr.

A **motion** was made by Scott Lamberson, **seconded** by Lu Landis to seat Joseph Corlis as a regular member. All were in favor. *Motion Passed.*

3. Approval of Agenda:

A **motion** was made by Joseph Corlis, **seconded** by Lu Landis to approve the agenda. All were in favor. *Motion Passed.*

4. Town Planner Report:

a. Status of Pending and Approved Subdivisions:

1. Conservation Subdivision at 100 North Road and Ledge Road. Reed Builders LLC, owner Applicant. Town Planner Craig Minor reported that the Inland Wetland Agency's last meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions and is rescheduled for January 21, 2009. Craig Minor told the commission members that the subdivision will most likely be approved by the Inland Wetland Agency and then go to Planning and Zoning for final approval

b. Farmland Preservation Committee:

1. Technical Assistance Grant for Farmland Preservation Committee: Craig Minor presented details of the grant to the commission members and a discussion took place.

A **motion** was made by Lu Landis and **seconded** by Joseph Corlis to present the Technical Assistance Grant for Farmland Preservation Committees to the Board of Selectmen for approval at their next meeting. All were in favor. *Motion passed*

Joseph Corlis stated that he has also spoken to Kachina Walsh-Weaves of CCM and she would be available to do a “road show” for the Conservation Commission on Farmland Preservation.

2. Farming Forum on February 9, 2009 7:00 P.M.

The commission members discussed what topics that they will want to cover at this forum. Joseph Corlis said he would like this forum be a “listing day” of the farmers concerns. Lu Landis asked if agricultural landowners and farmers should be on the committee. Richard Newton felt it would be a good idea to have one or two on the committee as representatives and that it is important to get their input and their vested interest. Selectmen Newton told the commission members that they need to tell the farmers what the committee is about and why it would like the farmers to come out to the forum. It was decided that a mass mailing would be done to inform farmers identified through Act 490 on this forum. The members felt that a larger meeting room would be needed for this forum as a large crowd of farmers as well as the general public may attend. Craig Minor said he would check the availability of a larger room. Items for the agenda were discussed and Craig Minor will draft an agenda and if accepted, will post and draft a press release to be placed in the Middletown Press, Hartford Courant, Cromwell Chronicle and also on the Town of Cromwell Website.

5. Old Business:

a. Report on “Cromwell Hills” detention pond dredging project

Joseph Corlis reported that a decision was made to grow grass at the north entrance to the pond per Wendy Goodfriend’s recommendation; also two bushes will be removed adjacent to Redwood Court. The Board of Directors will be meeting January 15, 2009 to discuss other plantings.

b. Conservation Easement Management

The Conservation Easement Management manual will be put on the Board of Selectmen’s February agenda for approval. Craig Minor and a member of the Conservation Commission will attend the Board of Selectmen meeting to state the purpose of the manual and to answer any questions.

c. Open Space Plan

Mr. Webster called Craig Minor on the cemeteries and will submit a brief history on the sites. Discussion took place and it was decided to wait until the information on the cemeteries was received before finalizing the Plan at their March 09 meeting. The Open Space Plan will then go to the Planning and Zoning commission for their acceptance. Once it is accepted, it will be an addendum to the Plan of Conservation and Development.

d. North Utilities “Environmental Community Grant Program”:

A copy of the prepared grant application was attached to the agenda for the

member's final review.

A **motion** was made by Scott Lamberson and **seconded** by Joseph Corils to submit the grant application to the Board of Selectmen for placement on the February 09 agenda for their approval.

Discussion took place. All were in favor. *Motion passed.*

e. Report on "Evergreen Hill Park"
Tabled

6. New Business:

None

7. Communications:

None

8. Commissioners Comments:

Lu Landis discussed a mailing she received from the Open Space Institute and presented it to the other members to read.

Scott Lamberson told the commission members that he might not be able to attend the March, April and May meetings because of courses he will be taking.

9. Public Comments:

None

10. Approval of Minutes:

a. December 8, 2008

A **motion** was made by Laurene McEntire, **seconded** by Joseph Corlis to approve the minutes as submitted. All were in favor, *Motion Passed.*

11. Annual Meeting:

a. Election of Officers

Lu Landis nominated Laurene McEntire as Chairman, seconded by Joseph Corlis. Nomination was accepted. Joseph Corlis, seconded by Scott Lamberson motioned to close the nomination. All were in favor

Joseph Corlis nominated Lu Landis as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Laurene McEntire. Nomination was accepted. All were in favor.

b. Review of by-laws

The members review the by-laws and asked Craig Minor to add to the next meetings agenda a discussion and vote on amending the by-laws to change the meetings from monthly to by monthly.

c. Approval of 2009 Meeting Dates

The members discussed the proposed calendar for 09 and set the meeting dates as: January 12, March 9, May 11, July 13, September 14, and November 9, 2009.

A **motion** was made by Joseph Corlis, **seconded** by Ernest Pandolfe to approve the calendar dates of 2009. All were in favor. *Motion Passed.*

Craig Minor will submit the calendar to the Secretary of the State.

d. Proposed Budget for FY 2009-2010

The members reviewed and discussed the attached budget. Craig Minor told the members that some of the dollar amounts were estimates and revisions were made.

A **motion** was made by Laurene McEntire, **seconded** by Lu Landis to add a line item from the Open Space Fund for the purchase of land in the amount of \$2,500. All were in favor. *Motion Passed.*

12. Adjourn:

Chairman Laurene McEntire adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Janik
Clerk

01/20/2009