

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING 12/11/07

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

In Attendance: Carroll Curtis, Kelsey Purinton, Verla Brooks, Jessica Ireton-Hewitt, Ross Cunningham. Absent: Jack Arndt.

November minutes were approved with corrections.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wreath classes are done and orders completed.

The Conservation Commission below made the recommendation to the Park Service for improvements in Summer Street Park. With some minor changes it was felt that the park could be more noticeable and accessible with minor changes. As a Spring project a sign could be made similar to Beaver Park's so that it can be seen from the road. A simple map can be made of the trails and placed near the sign. The trails will remain graded as they currently are. A few parking spaces can be made with posts in front to block cars from driving in. A few years ago boulders were placed along a trail that starts at Summer Street. We have not heard anything from Seth Strickland about making the picnic table and trail maintenance for his Eagle Scout badge. Any large scale work done at Summer Street Park will have to be approved by the Town Council.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had the 2 test pits dug and the soil analyzed. A blueprint will need to be drawn up for the Town Engineer. In the Spring 3 bids will need to be received to complete the work to resolve the erosion problem behind the ball fields.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Winter Project for Beaver Park will be the building of Library shelves in the Lodge. We have not received any word from Mrs. Long from Altrusa International in regards to the books they want to donate to Beaver Park.

John Gould did repair work on the Beaver Park Lodge chimney. He refused payment even for materials. A thank-you card will be sent with an annual pass to the park.

Input is needed on Capital Improvements. It was not thought that any new capital projects were needed. Currently we will keep the Conservation Commission land projects, Beaver Park improvements and the replacement of the park pick-up truck.

Verla announced that she has put in for 2 weeks of vacation. It will be for the week of Christmas and the week of New Year's. If we have a snowstorm she will be around to plow the road and groom the trails.

The town may foreclose on two parcels of land for back taxes. One is approximately 8 acres and the other is about 5 acres. It has been suggested that the town make these parcels part of Beaver Park if they are foreclosed on. The properties are marshy and border on the park boundaries. The land would be a nice addition to the park.

Kelsey mentioned to Ross to remove James Appleby, Bart and Diane Ford from the website

member list.

The Androscoggin Land Trust (ALT) dues are due for 2008. The same \$50.00 fee was agreed upon to pay.

The Mock Envirothon is schedule again this year at Beaver Park for April 29th.

On March 29th the Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the State Forestry Service will be offering a GPS System training class at Beaver Park. The class is open to the Public and only costs \$7.00 per person to attend. A storm date has been set for April 5th.

A new project that the Conservation Commission can look into is public transportation. With the cost of fuel we thought we could help the community by informing them of alternative transportation that is available. Currently not much is known of the bus system. Ross will find out who the contact person is, what the cost and the route schedule is. Signs should be made and placed in strategic positions. Information can be posted in the Lisbon Ledger. Ross will also look into getting some interest through the school system to help promote this project. This can be a continuing ongoing project to educate the public. Other environmental concerns will be water conservation, energy and the use of cost saving new bulbs. Within the same line of focus is heat retention and the installation of plastic on windows. Other topics could be paper conservation, recycling that is available to the community and the prevention of littering, and a Walk don't drive exercise campaign.

Budgets will be discussed at the January meeting. Two projects that we will need to include in the budget process are the Summer Street project and the transportation/environmental project from the Conservation Commission budget,

Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Purinton.