

**Conservation Commission
Thursday, October 21, 2004, 7pm
Visitor Center, Claremont, NH**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Andrew Austin (City Council Representative), Michael Demars (Planning Board Representative), Robert Woodman, Alice Clay, Steve Wood
Absent: Paul LaCasse
Guest: Dianne Ranney

2. Report of Secretary

Minutes of September 16, 2004 were presented.
Correction: Page 3, last sentence, change "trial" to "trail".

Motion: To accept the minutes of September 16, 2004 as amended.
Made by: First: Mr. Woodman Second: Mr. Wood
Vote: Unanimous

3. Treasurer's Report

September's report from Ms. Lee, City Treasurer was reviewed and the following transactions presented:

1. Payment of \$25.00 to Rails-To-Trails.
2. Payment of \$17.81 to Mike Demars for trail markers, screws, lids, etc.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report for September.
Made by: First: Mr. Wood Second: Mr. Woodman
Vote: Unanimous

4. Old Business

Rail to Trails

The Commission was provided a copy of the markers/notes that were put in Excel which requires updating. Mr. Woodman put in a new culvert between Broad and Pleasant Streets and filled it with rock and trail gravel. Mr. Chad Demars contributed to the project by providing assistance and the use of equipment free of charge. St. Pierre Inc. donated and delivered approximately fourteen yards of gravel. A channel was dug out on both sides of the trail on Broad Street.

Motion: To public notice in the "Letter to the Editor" section of the newspaper the donations made by CSB and St. Pierre for the Rails-To-Trails project.
Made by: First: Mr. Demars Second: Mr. Austin
Vote: Unanimous

5. New Business

a. Discussion of ideas for the Conservation Master Plan to be included in the Claremont Master Plan being developed by the Planning Board.

The importance of the Conservation Commission being included in Claremont's Master Plan Update was discussed. A plan also needs to be developed to present to the Planning Board. Ms. Clay stated there will be a Master Plan Update on the agenda for discussion in future meetings. Mr. Demars will report this to the Planning Board at their next meeting. Mr. Austin suggested more details of the Conservation Commission's meetings be provided to the City Council for informational purposes.

Mr. Demars reported he met with Bill Gyles to discuss the City's GIS mapping system. They discussed the information necessary in regard to the easements for future trails. Funding will be needed for surveying and/or other needed services. Seminars and other training opportunities may be available. The Board stressed the importance of having computerized records. The required maps were discussed. Ms. Dianne Ranney reported there are some trail maps in GIS form available. It was stated many trails in Moody Park were included in this. Ms. Clay requested the Commission have a copy of this to review.

Motion: To provide written notification to the Planning Board that the Conservation Commission is interested in and will be working on developing an open space management plan for their review and possible mapping update.

Made by: First: Mr. Demars Second: Mr. Woodman

Vote: Unanimous

b. Proposal for US Cellular

U.S. Cellular's proposal for a new cell tower was discussed. Mr. Demars reported Mr. Clark expressed a concern for the potential impact (construction, disturbance, debris) in regard to the pond on his property at the last Planning Board meeting. The deterioration of the road and the possibility of additional erosion during construction were questioned by Mr. Demars.

Motion: To approve US Cellular's proposal for a new cell tower.

Made by: First: Mr. Woodman Second: Mr. Wood

Vote: Unanimous

c. Master Plan Update

Issues discussed for inclusion in the Master Plan are as follows:

- Trails
- Conservation Easements
- Wetlands
- Clarification of City Owned Parcels that the City has rights to
- Wildlife habitats
- Water quality
- Forest lands
- Steep slope restrictions
- Recreation demand statistics

In addition, how to utilize funds that must be spent by September, the formation of a committee to get public opinion and the effect on the tax rate. It was stated any investment of tax paying dollars in this project was strongly discouraged. Ms. Ranney expressed her concern regarding the safety of the bridge crossing. It was suggested that the Commission purchase safety signs with the funds and post them. Mr. Austin questioned the potential for liability. It was stated there is a possibility of the trails being covered under the State's liability insurance. Mr. Demars mentioned the need for crosswalks on Broad and Chestnut Streets. DPW will be contacted in regards to this issue; but the maintenance of it and the destruction caused by ATV's were questioned. Ms. Clay expressed her concern in regard to the safety condition of the boards on the bridge.

6. Communications

Letter was received from DES regarding Mr. Michael Lemieux and James Baird

7. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Made by: First: Mr. Wood Second: Mr. Austin

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Hagerman
Recording Secretary

