

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of the Meeting - January 18, 2007

Conservation Commission members present were: Chairman Joe MacGregor, Letitia Rice, Dennis McKenney, John Manley, Ken Cloutier, and Val Germain.

Agenda Items:

- 1. Review Plan for 89 Concord Street, LLC**
- 2. Review of Trow Project**
- 3. Progress Report on Bruce Edes Forest**
- 4. Letter for Town Report**
- 5. Other**
- 6. Agenda for February**

1. Scott Burnside and Tim Ferwerda from Meridian Land Services were present to discuss the Wetlands Dredge and Fill Permit for 89 Concord Street, LLC. The properties being developed are located on North Bennington Rd.

The Planning Board met previously regarding the three proposed building lots and determined that a shared driveway would have the least impact on wetlands for at least two of the building lots. Zoning requirements have been met by the developer. Scott announced at the meeting that one of the three lots had been sold (Lot #14 24-14).

The permit is for a minimal impact wetlands crossing for a driveway and it has been determined a culvert will be necessary to allow the water to continue to flow.

The Conservation Committee is being asked to sign off on the permit. Dennis McKenney recused himself from this issue as he was sent notice as an abutter of the property being discussed.

Members of the ConCom visited the site to assess the wetlands impact prior to this meeting. Concerns that arose from the site visit are as follows:

- ~There was a fairly significant gully/dry stream bed on the property which the driveway would cross
- ~It appeared that some fill would be required
- ~There were standing wet areas observed

Patricia Collins, a direct abutter to one of the lots, was present to discuss

concerns about the proposed driveway and development of the property as it may affect her property. The main concern stated by Ms. Collins was that due to development of the property, the volume of water onto her property would increase. Ms. Collins consulted an engineer for advice and a letter was submitted to the board from the engineer with his opinion of the matter. The engineer felt that drainage calculations would be needed for the correct culvert size and to ensure septic plans were elevated and that the houses would be above the flood plain.

Discussion ensued regarding an existing issue of standing water on Ms. Collin's property due to a blocked culvert at the north end of her property. Selectmen have discussed the issue and plans have been made to correct the problem by the highway department.

Chairman MacGregor stated his hesitation to sign off on the application due to the concerns from both the abutter and the ConCom. Joe was told by DES that if he signed off on the application, the town will not be allowed any further action. It was determined that the ConCom, the developer, and any abutters should visit the proposed building lots. A site visit was planned for Sunday, January 21st at 9:00 a.m. A decision on the permit was tabled at this time.

2. Trow Dredge and Fill Permit - After a site visit by both the Planning Board and the ConCom on November 18th, concerns were voiced at the December Planning Board meeting regarding water flow on the property and significant standing water. Due to the concerns, Chairman MacGregor spoke to DES, and followed up the conversation with a letter requesting an on-site review by the state.

3. Bruce Edes Forest - Chairman Joe MacGregor met with Kathy Bigford from Great Brook School to discuss how students in the ELP will work in conjunction with the ConCom to develop a brochure and map of the forest. Joe also shared that a third group of students had visited the forest.

Joe and his son Ryan had been in the forest to do some clearing and trimming and had constructed a bench from a fallen tree at the site that overlooks the river.

John Manley has started cutting pieced for a bridge.

4. Town Report - The chairman agreed to write a letter from the Conservation Commission to be included in Bennington's Annual Report.

5. Other - John Manley wanted to inform members that he cleared a trail on his property which can be accessed from Bible Hill Road across from Sweeneys near the fire hydrant. He invited anyone interested to hike the property which has views from the higher elevations.

Dennis McKenney had spoken with Whitney Beales, a Land Protection Specialist. He is willing to come to speak to the ConCom, other Town Boards, and interested citizens to discuss land protection for property owners.

Joe MacGregor has joined the Friends fo the River. Walking the boundary between Antrim and Bennington is still on the list of things to do for the Town of Bennington Selectmen and ConCom along with the Antrim Selectmen and appropriate personnel.

The February meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 15th at 6:30 p.m.

The Conservation Commission Meeting was not adjourned due to the planned site visit on Sunday, January 21st. The ConCom agreed to re-convene on January 21, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. on the proposed building sites on North Bennington Road.

Respectfully,

Valerie Germain