

Wilton Conservation Commission

PO Box 83, Wilton Town Hall, Wilton, NH 03086

<http://www.ci.wilton.nh.us/>

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY – 05 MAY 2014 – 7:00 PM

The Wilton Conservation Commission held a Special Meeting on

Monday, 05 May 2014, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

This Special Meeting was a continuation of the regular monthly meeting of 14 April 2014.

Lynne brought the meeting to order at 7:05pm. All members are present.

Bart: Met with High Mowing, Kermit Williams, Kathy Boss were also present. River access 200 feet high bank - high mowing has no legal right to put anything in writing as of this moment,

The Frye Parcel noted in Warrant Article 13, was walked by WCC members.

Bart and Joe monitored Sherbourn Wood's - the Town Marker is in place at the Mason/Wilton/Milford corner.

- **Minutes** – WCC reviewed April 14th, 2014 Minutes, a discussion on reporting “actual Quotes” compares to rewording what was said ensued. Donna (myself) informed the WCC that the minutes wording was “as stated”, that I type what is spoken at that moment in time, especially when we have visitors or applicants at the meeting. ***Motion made at 7:20pm by Spencer, to accept the revised adaptation of the minute’s to include*** [regarding specific trails and access points] ***Bill second the motion, Spencer withdrew that motion: New motion Spencer made the motion to add*** (If trails are defined, they remain as defined in perpetuity; therefore it is in the Town of Wilton’s best interest to not have trails defined in the Conservation Easement Deed.), ***the motion was second by, Bill motion passed to a majority vote, Laurence Abstained.***
- **Budget & Expenditures** – Clerk Invoice for 4 WCC meetings, in the amount of \$240. ***Bart made the motion to accept and pay the invoice, Bill second all in favor motion passed.*** Jeff Stone signed the invoice, copies were made for the Budget keepers of the WCC. Jeff will forward the signed invoice to Pam Atwood at the selectman’s Office.

- **ZBA** – No April Meeting; Upcoming Meeting of May 13th, The Lot D-155, Forest Road fishing camp has been moved to a Public Hearing on June 10th, 2014.
- **Planning Board** – Meetings of 19 March and 16 April; Upcoming Meetings of 07 May and 21 May
- **Tree Cuttings / Stone Walls / Scenic Roads, etc.** – No Update
- **Forest Management / Timber Harvests / Logging** – Bill will have the updated Timber intents at the next WCC monthly meeting.
- **New Reservoir/Old Reservoir** – No Update
- **Violations & Complaints** – No Updates
- **Open Lands** – Update
- **Wildlife Sightings** – Les, Beaver... Bart, Wood cocks...
- **Local Open Space**
 - **Vandalism** – No Update
 - **Signage** – No Update
 - **Tallarico Land** – Forest service was over, survey is still not complete.
 - **Frye Land/High Mowing Project** – Still waiting on the wording of the Easement before it gets sent into the Gov't for its initial evaluation.
 - **Gage Road Field** – No Update
 - **Stanton Knock** – Monitored by Jeff, The dead tree is still waiting to be removed, waiting on the man to get the trailer out of the way. Alan handling the removal of the dead tree, and *coordinating with town. @ 70 Maple Street.*
 - **Sherburne Woods** – Management Plan: We need to have one in place
 - **Frog Pond** – R-O-W, R-O-W Culvert, Maintenance, Milford Side Field Edging; Jeff monitors the dam to comply with our WCC management plan, which is in agreement with the DES Dam bureau .
 - **Frog Pond** – Potential Dredging of Pond; No Update
 - **Carnival Hill** – No Update
 - **Community Garden at Carnival Hill** – Update up to 13 members, Spencer just planted two dogwoods, all the same phenology. This is part of a South Eastern study.
 - **Bart suggested** that we have a monitoring checklist, Bart mentioned it would be so much easier to just go down the list, by month and check what has and has not been monitored and if there* is any action to be taken. Donna volunteered to do a spreadsheet, and email to the WCC for suggestions and improvements.
 - **Four Corners Farm** – No Update
 - **Wegener Woods** – New Signs Ready will be up Les plans on doing it this month now that the ground has thawed.
- **Trails** – Bart and a forester for the state did a hike from Pratt pond to Wilton forest we have an agreement, that the state will update the trail and the bridge. By the time we are done you will be...able to walk 6 miles. Fantastic news!!
- Jeff Stone presents a handout: (Attachment A) Three major bullet points
 - Dog Waste, neighborhood of FRES & Whiting Park:** WCC started to discuss that this is also a problem in the Pine valley, Frog pond area. There is a lack of sign's requiring dog owners to clean up their waste. There are signs in the town, so there must be a way to get signs for the other locations. Donna to send a letter, notification to the selectmen that this issue has been raised as a concern to the WCC committee.
 - TM2014 Article 18, Frog Pond land transfer:** This article was miss-represented as introduced at the Town Meeting 2014. This was the only thing that WAS NOT passed by the Town of Wilton at the Town Meeting. WCC discusses that this is a thorn in "our" side that enforcing the clean-up of the R-O-W has met with lack of assistance in the past by the Town Selectmen. We (Town of Wilton) need to look at this, why we would award someone for their continuous, and purposely blocking the public access by selling them land is beyond understanding. If the shoe was on the other foot, we would be held accountable for cleaning up the land, and keeping it to the Town's standards. Alan added that there is a long history to this, that it might even have a legal complication. Jeff wanted to know if it was worth revisiting it, or do we just drop it? Maybe now with a shift in Town Selectmen we have a chance on making

Gabel accountable. Alan stated that it is a safety issue that he really needs to get the junk cars out, because of the wetlands, that there was not enough access for the fire department and or the police department to get through in case of emergency, due to the junk cars as well as registered cars blocking the access. *Spencer made a motion to form a subcommittee to address TM2014 Article 18, nominating Jeff Stone to head this subcommittee, Alan seconds the motion, motion passed by majority. Joe abstains.*

Participation of WCC Alternate when not impaneled: (See Attachment A) Option 5: Almost-Member: full participant with the sole exception on voting in the final vote on a motion. *Joe made a motion to accept Option 5 as stated, Bart second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

- Laurence addresses the WCC. Laurence read from pages he had written, that he was personally discouraged with the way the WCC treated Ian McSweeney in the last meeting. Instead of attaching him we should show more gratitude for the amount of work he has done for the WCC, in coordinating and assisting in the facilitation of the Frye/High mowing Easement. Laurence also reminded the WCC that we need to look at the picture as a whole not scrutinize every aspect. The proposed acquisition fulfilled all the requirements of the WCC for saving the land. Laurence also reminded us the fact that Ian McSweeney might not take on future projects due to the lack of support, and positive reinforcement from the WCC. The Town of Wilton has already voted on the appropriation of the funds. Now it is our turn to facilitate this project in a positive timely fashion. Laurence also proposed that we the WCC need to revision our mission statement as it is apparent that we are not “working together” for what is best for the Town of Wilton. All personal feelings need to be put aside, and we need to do what is right for the Town and get behind it. Alan retorted the issues he still had with the proposed acquisition, and Lawrence repeated what he had just stated as to putting “single feelings aside”, and to do what is right for the Town of Wilton. Alan and Laurence had a one on one conversation, not achieving anything. *Les made a motion that the WCC should review and update their mission statement at the next WCC meeting in June 9th, 2014, Bill second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*
- **Miscellaneous** – including but not limited to:
 - Saving Special Places Conference – Spencer and Lynne attended different seminars. Great conference.
 - Souhegan Watershed Association – Spencer met on the 18th,
 - Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC) – No Update
 - Regional Open Space Team (ROST) – No Update
 - Souhegan Valley Land Trust (SVLT) – Update annual meeting Pam Hunt did a state of the birds presentation...FYI

Please See Attachment A

Les made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08pm, Bill second the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Lynne makes a motion to accept minutes with changes made on, 6/9/2014, Jeff second Motion, All in Favor Motion passed. 8:30pm 6/9/2014.

WCC New Business – 140414/Attachment A

- **Dog waste, neighborhood of FRES & Whiting Park.**
 - I live on Tremont St. in the East Village, around the corner from the elementary School. I hosted a dog for a friend this past winter and we walked various parts of the neighborhood several times a day. I saw significant evidence of dog waste left to cause nuisance and foul surface- and ground water, especially in the area of the School.
 - Dog owners are required by law to clean up after their dogs. Many do not do so.

- **TM2014 Article 18, Frog Pond land transfer:**
 - Introduction:
 - This article was miss-represented as introduced at TM 2014.
 - It is not about trash cleanup. The Select-board has the power to enforce a Cleanup and has not.
 - It is the neighborly thing to do.
 - The land in question is not cleared, so not useable by the town or the public.
 - The WCC and the Town are potentially liable for losses / injuries occurring on this property.
 - Disposition: Shall we drop it? Pursue it further? How?

- **Participation of a WCC Alternate when not impaneled:**
 - Introduction: The role of a WCC Alternate member when not impaneled does not appear to be defined by statute, Town, or the WCC. The RSA says only that “...when the alternate serves in the absence or Disqualification of a regular member, the alternate shall have full voting powers.” There is no discussion of what an alternate shall or shall not do at under other circumstances.

At WCC meetings in which I have participated as a non-impaneled Alternate, I have made and seconded motions which stood, and motions for which a restatement by a Full Member was called for.

I am asking WCC this evening to consider and specify the degree of participation it wishes an Alternate to take. To begin the discussion, I offer the following suggestions; I'm sure there are other possibilities:
 - **Options:**
 1. Silent Auditor: Does not speak but merely keeps up with current WCC business, so is ready to take a seat when requested.
 2. Citizen Attendee: SA, plus may address the commission when called upon.
 3. All talk / No Action: Participates in discussion; may not move, second, or vote on motions or amendments.
 4. Tweaked: AT/NA, plus proposes, seconds, and votes, only on amendments.
 5. Almost-Member: Full participant, with the sole exception of voting in the final vote on a motion.

◦ **Disposition:** I propose that WCC define the extent of participation requested of, and permitted by, a WCC Alternate when not impaneled, and I request now that a Full Member so move.