

Webster Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2013

Present: MJ MacGowan(chair), Linda Clark, Sally Embley, Betsy Janeway, Susan Roman, and Nancy VanLoan

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m., and Sally Embley was appointed acting Secretary.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 8 meeting were approved as amended. (The January meeting began at 7:35, not 8:35.) The commission met informally on February 21, following its presentation to the Webster Planning Board, but no business was transacted since a quorum was not present.

Correspondence: (1) A letter from DES advising Gloria Carlisle that her application would be permitted in accordance with the Shoreland Protection requirement that only 10% of the land surface be impervious, and (2) a notice about the April 6 "Saving Special Places" conference in Weare, which Susan and Linda are both interested in attending. The membership renewal request from Ausbon Sargent was tabled until April when funds should again be available following Town Meeting. (The WCC overspent its \$500 budget by \$2 in 2012.)

Update on Phelps Easement Project: Susan, who serves on the Land Protection Committee for Five Rivers Conservation Trust, reported that Five Rivers has agreed to purchase this 12-acre easement for \$10,000. She will meet with Gerry Phelps next week to explain the closing process. She then asked whether the WCC also wished to take an "executory interest," i.e., assume backup responsibility for the property. Since this might involve legal fees in the future, MJ moved(seconded by Betsy) that we NOT take an executory interest. Susan also noted that deductions for easements are back to 50% for 2013 but will return to 30% in 2014. She recommended putting a summary of these provisions in the *Webster Grapevine* to alert potential local donors.

Easement Monitoring: Only one small parcel remains to be monitored. Reports have been submitted for the Janeway, Rockefeller, O'Donnell, Riverdale, Mock Forest and adjacent Phelps easements.

Natural Resources Inventory: MJ asked Commission members to review the NRI with an eye to updating the text. Bob Quinn had pointed out that our four new maps will be very helpful in identifying areas of high conservation value, and MJ reported that the maps are now posted on the town website. Betsy recommended that the final report include photos as well as the maps and that copies be donated to the Webster Library.

Next Event: Sally provided more details on her proposal for an Earth Day Litter Pickup. WHEN - Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon WHERE - Fire Chief Colby has said the Safety Building could be used as a staging area where volunteers can pick up their (blue) trash bags. WCC members offered to cover the roads near their residences: MJ- Clough and Sanborn Hill; Linda – Deer Meadow; Sally – Lake Road/White Plains; Betsy – Tyler Road; Nancy– Gerrish/Bayshan Hollow. WHO ELSE – We'll need more recruits for Pleasant St., Little Hill, Pond Hill/Roby Road, and possibly Battle Street. (Circle of Home and Family had a Sponsor-a-Highway section on Battle, but they've disbanded.) The Boy Scouts and older 4-H kids may be available to help – contacts for other groups would be appreciated. PUBLICITY – Sally will send announcements to Dot Haskins for the Monitor and to Dee Blake for the April *Grapevine*. She expects to get more helpful hints from the Hopkinton members of the Recycling Committee who did an Earth Day pickup last year; they're doing it on April 20 this year as well.

MJ suggested we give the first 25 volunteers a "wildlife package" from the County nursery as an incentive; her motion to spend "not more than \$25" (seconded by Nancy) was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Embley, Acting Secretary