

Conservation Commission
September 16, 2010
MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chair Brad Crosby, Wayne Elliott, Vice Chair John Earley, Steve Ober; Selectmen's Representative, Mary Ahlgren, Brian Mokler and Katy Wells; Alternate.

Open

At 7:06 pm, Chair Crosby recognized the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order. The purpose of tonight's meeting was to meet with Lisa Morin and Lisa Rixen from the Belknap County Conservation District and Sue Hoey with NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Services) to get an update on the Swain family farm conservation easement project. (TML 22/30 and 22/39)

Sue Hoey overviewed the purpose of her agencies involvement and what role they would play with helping with the funding for this project. Lisa Morin and Lisa Rixen explained the Conservation Districts involvement to date and what the process to move forward would be. It was discussed that there is an old survey of the parcels currently being considered and the need for a conservation easement appraisal. Lisa Rixen also noted that she has contacted four appraisal companies for estimates for the cost of and initial appraisal to help us determine an estimated market value and what avenue to travel to move forward with this project. In addition, the estimates included a final appraisal for the easement process that will be done after a new survey, which will assist with the negotiation of deed language and establish accurate value.

Sue Hoey outlined the cooperative agreement process and handed out a sample copy of an instruction sheet for filling out the agreement as well as the NH NRCS 2010 farm and ranch land protection ranking sheet. All these documents were discussed at length, questions were asked and answers were given. At this time the conservation commission members felt that there may need to be a preliminary appraisal done for the Swain property, TML 22/30 and 22/39.

Mary Ahlgren made a **motion** to expend \$2200 for the purpose of an appraisal, no 2nd, motion withdrawn.

Lisa Rixen stated that the appraisal is being paid for by the conservation district through a contribution agreement. Sue Hoey mentioned that monitoring costs should also be considered and put in a conservation easement stewardship fund.

Mary Ahlgren made a **motion** that the Sanbornton Conservation Commission enter into a cooperative agreement with the Belknap County Conservation District in an effort to secure a conservation easement on TML 22/30 and 22/39, Swain Family Farm property, 2nd by Chair Crosby all were in favor. Lisa Morin and Lisa Rixen will prepare and email to John Earley and Katy Wells and the conservation commission will review this at their October meeting and consider a motion at that meeting for appropriation of money for an appraisal.

Other Business

Brian Mokler stepped off the board for the purpose of the following discussion.

Chair Crosby announced that he spoke to Rob Dion regarding our offer, and Mr. Dion accepted. The commission will need to review the easement and restrictions for the deed at the next meeting.

Steve Ober stated he was given a name to call for an attorney that reviews deeds for land use and he will contact him and get back to us.

Brian Mokler is back on the board.

Chair Crosby made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm, 2nd by John Earley all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Katy Wells; Secretary and Alternate Member