

**TOWN OF NEW LONDON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 15, 2006
MEETING MINUTES (Final)**

PRESENT: Dan Allen, Dale Conly, Bob Crane, Emma Crane, Terry Dancy, Vicki Koron, Les Norman, Peter Stanley, Ruth White.

GUESTS: Beth McGuinn (ASLPT), Greg Berger and John Clough (Spring Ledge Farm)

Les Norman, Chair, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of February 15 and March 8 meetings were approved unanimously.
2. Evergreen Point Easement: Beth McGuinn (ASLPT) summarized the establishment of the Evergreen Point easement as a result of a bequest of Marjorie Young. All structures from the previous camp have been removed. The easement is very restrictive and does not allow for any public use. The land will be posted with no trespassing by request of donor. ASLPT signage will be posted as well. ASLPT and the NLCC will work together on all signage necessary. ASLPT is the land owner and NLCC will hold the deed for the easement. It will be NLCC's responsibility to monitor the easement. The land trust and the NLCC would have access to the property in order to carry out monitoring activities. If management of the property is not done in compliance with the bequest, it is possible that Bates College could assume ownership and develop the property. The conservation easement terms allow ASLPT to manage the property only in compliance with the bequest. The NLCC needs to execute the easement prior to April 15 so that the ASLPT can file an application for current use. A motion was made for Les to execute the easement. Motion was approved unanimously.

In the spring ASLPT will be looking for volunteers to help with the planting of trees on this property.

3. John Clough – Trail Proposal: John Clough (previous owner) and Greg Berger (current owner) of Spring Ledge Farm suggested opportunities to develop additional trails behind the Farm where there is approximately 30 acres of land abutting the farm and the middle school wetlands. There are trails there now but are not complete. John suggested there could be educational opportunities associated with an in town trail system. Questions raised: 1. Who would complete the trails? 2. What would be involved in maintenance? 3. Who would maintain them? 4. Access? It was determined that a layout of the existing trails needed to be seen on paper. Peter offered to make available existing aerial maps. Bob Crane has GPS data to share. It might be possible to apply for grant money for such a project. Also, NL hospital may be interested in developing trails behind the hospital. It was suggested that the town have a public forum specifically for discussion of an in town trail system. NLCC members felt that the discussion was setting a new direction for the CC to explore opportunities for an in town trail system. CC contact people would be Bob and Emma Crane and Dan Allen.
4. Spring Walks: Ruth outlined dates for the Spring walks as follows:

Day/Date	Time	Walk	Leader

Wed, 5/3	7:30-9:00 pm.	Woodcock	Peter Stanley
Wed, 5/10	7:00-9:00 a.m.	Birding	Ruth White
Wed, 5/17	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Trees	Laura Alexander
Wed, 5/24	9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Webb Forest Interpretive Trail	Dan Allen

5. Trails Update (D. Allen)

- There was a report of ATV use on Morgan Hill Trail.
- Signs still need to be made for Clark Lookout.
- Cocoa's Path by the junction of Great Brook Trail has been washed out and needs to be repaired.
- A limited tree harvest for view maintenance needs to be arranged for Phillips Memorial Preserve.
- The low plain forest maintenance to maximize wildlife habitat opportunities will start soon. Cost is \$2500.

6. Other:

- a. Peter Stanley commented on the stream buffer zone regulation adopted in 2002 and that the intent was not to prohibit but allow for special exception to the regulation, but only if the exception is made for a good reason and does not weaken the intent of the regulation. Such situations need to be dealt with on a case by case basis.
- b. There was a brief discussion about the Elkins dam and the potential sale of the Mesa building.
- c. It was suggested that a letter be written to Brian Faughnan for recognition and thank you for all his work on the new trail map. Terry Dancy will write the letter, Les will send.
- d. Letter to the town of Sutton's Conservation Commission regarding proposed development on Stone House Road placed in file. Discussion of this occurred at 3/8 meeting.
- e. Writing a letter in support of the town of Tamworth's taking local control (from federal) over wetlands was discussed and approved to do. Les will send a letter.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50.

Submitted by:

Linda Hanlon
Recording Secretary