Present: Chuck Mitchell, Helen Dawson, Jim Cropsey and Sukie Clark met at the Nickerson Industrial Park to look at a proposed culvert with representatives from PSNH at 6:30.

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM at the Tilton Town Hall. Members present: Chuck Mitchell, Helen Dawson, Jim Cropsey and Sukie Clark. Also present: Eliza Conde, Secretary, Corey Johnston of Keach Nordstrom Assoc. and Rick Plourde of PSNH.

New Business:

PSNH: Mr. Johnston made a presentation showing the proposed upgrade of an existing 12 inch culvert on a dirt road in the back of the property at Tax Map R20, Lots 1-9 and 1-10. The proposal is to upgrade to a 24 inch culvert, to disturb approximately 750 sq. ft. of wetland area and pave a portion of the existing road. With the newly adopted wetland ordinance, PSNH needs a variance to install pavement and a culvert within the wetland area. PSNH is requesting that the Conservation Commission recommend in favor of both the variance and an Expedited Wetlands application.

Chuck Mitchell inquired how far the rip rap will be extended on the south side as he is concerned there will be increased volume of water runoff. The rip rap will be approximately 15’ by 12’ creating an area sufficient to slow down the run off. Jim Cropsey asked if there would be a drainage ditch on each side of the road to collect possible oil, etc. from vehicles. There are none planned as a ditch would then be in the wetland area, but the shoulders are pitched away from the pavement. PSNH plans to fence in the entire area, however at the request of the Conservation Commission, they agreed to leave the wetland area in question open for a wildlife corridor. They will place gates on either side of the area for security leaving an opening of at least 75 feet.

Helen Dawson moved, Jim Cropsey seconded, to accept the plans with the stipulation that the fence be gated, leaving a wildlife corridor of at least 75 feet width. Motion passed. The Conservation Commission will forward a letter to the Zoning Board of Adjustment with this recommendation. It was agreed that
Chuck Mitchell will sign the Expedited Wetlands application when it is submitted.

Old Business:

“Drinking Water Protection Area” signs: Jim Cropsey reported that there are four signs available if the Conservation Commission wishes them. There is concern about identifying drinking water areas due to possible terrorist contamination. This item will be placed on next month’s agenda.

Jim Cropsey left the meeting and while waiting for Paul Rushlow to come, the Commission reviewed a map from LRPC identifying important resources of the town. Helen Dawson will work on updating the map.

Paul Rushlow arrived!

Tanger Outlet Center Wetlands Application: It appears the plan is to dredge the pond to be used as a fire pond while the original intent was its use as a detention pond to collect storm water runoff from the parking lot. The Mall made this same application two years ago and the Conservation Commission was opposed at the time.

Bob Hardy arrived!

Tanger Outlet Center proposes to dredge 2 feet in an area of 15’X20’ in the inlet and outlet areas. DES has indicated that it is now a wetland area and as such will require a mitigation. After review of the proposed plans and length discussion concerning the use of this area as a fire pond as opposed to a detention pond it was decided to send a letter to DES with the following concerns:

- Location of sediment disposal
- What method of silt control will be used
- Conservation Commission wishes the pond to remain as a functioning detention pond
- Question the need to totally remove all plant life from 600 square feet of bottom of pond
- Discharge during excavation should be monitored to protect Gulf Brook
- Water level should be maintained to keep vegetation alive.
- Suggest Tanger Outlet Mall retain a wetland scientist to assure that this location continues as a detention pond.

The Conservation Commission is not opposed to this pond having a dual purpose as a fire pond, but the primary function must remain as a detention pond.
Winnisquam Resort Condominiums Wetlands Application: A letter will be sent to DES suggesting approval of the application with the following conditions:

- Dredging should be done when water is low
- Environmentally friendly pressure treated lumber should be used
- Material dredged must be located out of the wetland area
- No additional rocks added.

Approval/Correction of minutes: Helen Dawson moved, seconded by Paul Rushlow to accept the minutes of Feb. 16, 2004 as read. Motion passed.

Conservation Commission Stipends: Chuck Mitchell announced that the Selectmen have approved a stipend of $300 a year for Conservation members. Helen Dawson noted that the Master Plan chapter has never been approved by the Conservation Commission and we need to inquire of the committee what has been included.

Country Lake Estates: Chuck Mitchell reported that he, Ben Wadleigh and Jon Scanlon had worked on the wording of the proposed conservation easement at length at last month’s scheduled meeting. There had been many open ended issues which need to be resolved before accepting this easement, in particular, the issue of cutting trees for views. Bob Hardy moved, seconded by Paul Rushlow, to add the wording in #9 to “restrict any building or structure in the easement area and to restrict tree removal except for sound forest management as approved by the Conservation Commission. Motion passed.

Lochmere Meadows/John Bernard: Helen Dawson reported that she attended the Planning Board meeting to indicate the concerns of the Conservation Commission. It has been clear from the beginning the Commission would like to have a Conservation Easement protecting the wetlands and the wildlife corridor and that a deed restriction is not very effective over time. Members will either attend the next meeting or email the Planning Board to let them know of the concerns relative to an easement.

McDonald and McIntire wetlands update: Mr. McIntire does not seem to have increased the encroachment on the wetlands. Mr. McDonald had a concern with his abutter disturbing soil which was washing down into his wetland area. Silt fence has been installed.

Correspondence:

Fortin & Redmond Assoc.: The Commission reviewed the map and correspondence relative to this subdivision.
At the next meeting the Commission will discuss the development of a Conservation library for the public.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza Conde, Secretary