TILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TILTON TOWN HALL
May 18, 2009
MINUTES

Members present: Helen Hanks, Paul Rushlow, Jon Scanlon, Kathi Mitchell, Chuck Mitchell, Bob Hardy, Jim Cropsey and Ben Wadleigh. Also present: Eliza Conde, Secretary, Patrick Bryson, Steve Jones, Ken Norton and Pat Garcia.

Public Hearing – Proposed uses of Tax Map U5 1A and U4 72 – 190 E Main St.: Chairman Hanks opened the public hearing asking for comments/suggestions on the future use of land recently purchased by the town. Patrick Bryson would like to be able to continue selling Christmas Trees on the lot from Thanksgiving to Christmas. He has been paying for the temporary electric connection each year. Steve Jones of the Tilton Park Commission informed the Commission that there is excess loam available at the Rte 132 ball fields and that it could be exchanged for gravel removed from the Martin lot. He would like to see it be green space with perhaps some fruit trees. Jon Scanlon commented that he has spoken with Janet Rosequist at the High School and it may be possible to have High School students volunteer to help with the landscaping. Jon also suggested it might be a good location for a farmer’s market. Helen Hanks added that she would like to see the lot be an attractive entrance to the town and only allow uses that do not diminish the waterfront. Steve Jones commented that there should only be parking for a few cars and no paving. Ken Norton suggested replacing the lilacs that used to be on the lot. Chuck Mitchell explained that the intention is to place a Conservation Easement on the lot and the Commission will want to include a list of activities that are and are not allowed. He questioned allowing an individual to sell Christmas trees as it would not then be open to others. Ken Norton suggested specifying only agricultural products allowed to be sold on the property. A farmer’s market would require lots of parking space.

Ken Norton explained the current status of the Winnipesaukee River Trail and the need for access to the railroad tracks. He asked if it would be possible to allow parking for construction trucks on this property during construction of the trail. Pat Garcia was adamant that she does not want her abutting property to become the parking lot for whatever happens to the town’s property. Discussion followed relative to methods of delineating the property bounds and making it clear that parking was not allowed on the abutting property.

Discussion then turned to the “Ernie’s Used Car” property and whether or not the old gas tanks had been removed. There is no documentation stating the removal actually took place available to the Conservation Commission. Pat Garcia was advised to seek such
documentation at DES. Chuck Mitchell commented that he thought the Commission could be interested in buying the property if it is proven that the tanks have been removed as the town is not interested in having to clean the lot.

Chuck Mitchell suggested a welcome sign could be placed on the lot and liked the idea of the flag pole to be placed on the smaller lot by the railroad. Methods of delineating parking areas were discussed, using small rocks rather than curbing, for instance. Steve Jones cautioned the Commission about allowing Christmas tree sales and the possible conflicts about who gets to use the lot. Pat Garcia reminded the Commission that Brownie Gengras had worked on the site and she may have some archeological information. Chuck Mitchell volunteered to contact Brownie for information. It was agreed that any remaining dam structure would not be destroyed and that perhaps an historical plaque with the history of the lot would be in order.

Steve Jones asked if the lot will be turned over to the Parks Commission. Helen Hanks replied that the Commission is looking to put an easement on the property, but has not yet determined who would be holding the easement or whether it would be turned over to the Parks Commission.

Public hearing closed.

Approval/Correction of minutes: Paul Rushlow moved, seconded by Kathi Mitchell to approve the minutes of April 20, 2009 as read. Motion passed.

Clean up of 190 E Main St.: An email from Jay Aube at DES suggested that it is probable that new regulations will be passed soon, allowing the grading, seeding, etc. of this lot to be done with only a notification to DES rather than a formal wetlands permit. It was agreed to wait until the new RSA is approved. It was also agreed to meet at the site before the next regular meeting to review the immediate needs.

Old Home Day: No action taken

Conservation Newsletter: Helen Hanks asked that drafts of articles be sent to her by June 15. The following suggestions were made:

1. Bob Hardy – Parks in Tilton
2. Jon Scanlon – Maintaining shoreline frontage – fertilizer, etc.
4. Helen Hanks – Milfoil
Correspondence:
1. Belmont Conservation Commission – Shoreland Protection – June 3
2. Conditional Use Permit for Alan Amero. A letter will be sent to the Planning Board suggesting that the embankment along the roadway needs to be planted with grass and shrubbery to stabilize the area and offer some filtration. All restoration areas shall have at least 75% successful establishment of vegetation after two (2) growing seasons, or the areas shall be replanted until vegetative stabilization is established. All snow must be plowed to the east side of the driveway away from the wetlands.
3. DES – John Bernard
4. DES – Tilton Nurseries

Other:
1. Members discussed Ken Norton’s request to park equipment on the town land during construction of the river trail. The general consensus was that it would be hypocritical of the Commission to insist that all equipment be removed from that lot and then allow equipment again. It would be necessary to have a paved fueling pad and it is too close to the drainage into the river.
2. Kathi Mitchell moved, seconded by Helen Hanks to seek bids on a survey for Tax Map U5 1A and U4 72 – 190 E Main St., in order to be sure of the line between the town land and that owned by the Turchin Estate. Motion passed.
3. Eliza Conde reported that 5 Rivers and Lakes Region Conservation Trusts did not appear to be interested in holding an easement on such a small lot. She will contact DRED and Fish and Game to see if they would be interested.
4. Jon Scanlon reported that the High School is interested in including conservation issues in next year’s curriculum. Bob Hardy, Jon Scanlon and Paul Rushlow will work with Janet Rosequist to develop a plan to include natural resources, wetlands, etc. Jon suggested that the students could monitor the town’s easements giving them first hand information relative to wetlands. Bob Hardy suggested that the Commission could fund speakers for the program.
5. Bob Hardy suggested an “adopt a trail” program for residents and/or students to maintain trails in town. Hal Graham of Trailwrights is willing to train people on trail maintenance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary