Members present: Ben Wadleigh, Jon Scanlon, Kathi Mitchell, Charles Mitchell, Bob Hardy, Paul Rushlow and Helen Hanks.

Minutes: Kathi Mitchell moved, seconded by Helen Hanks to accept the minutes of May 20, 2013 as read. Motion passed.

Wetlands Permit: Aaron Wechsler of Aspen Environmental Consultants presented a Standard Dredge and Fill application for the installation of a walkway and a dock to be constructed through wetlands to access Lake Winnisquam on Laconia Road (Tax Map U2 Lot 47). The applicant needs a Wetlands Permit for the dock and walkway, a Shoreland Protection permit for both and a Conditional Use Permit from the town for the impact the walkway will have on the 20 foot wetlands buffer. The walkway will require digging out the existing soil, importing sand material and then laying concrete patio blocks which will be 4-6” higher than the surrounding ground level. The proposed new residence will be very close to the wetlands buffer but will not impact any wetlands. The only impact to the wetlands buffer is the 4 foot walkway.

Chuck Mitchell reminded members that most of this application is not under the jurisdiction of the Commission and will be handled by Shoreland Protection at DES. Helen Hanks expressed concern about the slope of the walkway and potential drainage issues. Mr. Wechsler responded that there will not be much impact. There will be no drainage installed under the walkway in order to impact the wetlands as little as possible. The excavation will be conducted with a very small machine or by hand and the soil will be removed from the wetlands area. Bob Hardy suggested that frost damage will cause damage to the walkway. The concrete blocks are fairly large and heavy so it is expected that there will be little heaving. There will be no trees cut except where the house and driveway are being located. Bob Hardy pointed out that the designated “undisturbed” area does not eliminate the possibility of cutting trees along the shoreline. The undisturbed area has to be located within the 50’ and 150’ distances from the shoreline.

After further discussion Paul Rushlow moved, seconded by Ben Wadleigh to accept the plan as presented with the minimal impact on the wetlands. Helen Hanks stated that we have been assured that the loam excavated for the walkway will not be stored within the shoreland...
protection area. Bob Hardy expressed concern about the stability of the walkway and Kathi Mitchell suggested including that the Commission is concerned about the future maintenance issues for the walkway. Chuck Mitchell suggested that the applicant should be encouraged to remove more loam to begin with in order to avoid future maintenance issues. Motion passed and a letter will be sent to the Planning Board with these concerns and comments.

Ernie’s: Chuck Mitchell distributed copies of emails relative to the management of Conservation lands purchased with Conservation funds.

State Land: The Governor’s Council approved the sale of the land to the town and Atty. Sessler is currently preparing a deed. It is suggested that the mylar for both properties and/or combining both properties (Ernie’s and the State land) be recorded with the deed. Jon Scanlon moved, seconded by Bob Hardy to authorize the expenditure of $1,850 plus recording and closing fees from the Conservation Fund. Motion passed. It is preferred to combine the two properties at this time, but not if this would impact the EPA grant for Ernie’s. Atty Sessler had expressed concern about the potential bridge abutment being considered a structure, but Chuck Mitchell was assured by the state that this would not conflict with the conditions of the sale. Motion to expend funds was approved.

Paul Rushlow moved, seconded by Helen Hanks to expend $14,700 plus legal expenses for closing from the Conservation Fund for the purchase of the state property. Motion passed.

Discussion followed relative to the removal of shrubbery from the shoreline on the state property in order to keep the river visible. It was agreed to ask Jason Aube of DES to visit the site to identify what can and cannot be removed.

Tilton School Site Plan: The Tilton School’s plans for an athletic field on Map U7 Lot 39 was reviewed. Helen Hanks expressed concern that the plan calls for drainage to be directed toward School Street which could impact drainage for the road. It would be preferable to discharge water into the wetlands directly north of the project. There is also concern about the impact of proposed and future proposed lighting that will impact wildlife that currently uses this property. Helen Hanks moved, seconded by Kathi Mitchell to send a letter to the Planning Board with these concerns. Motion passed.
Correspondence:

- DOT – notice of a meeting relative to proposed work on the I93 bridges.
- DOT /DES – Notice of road work on Rte 3/11
- Sample Lakes Region Conservation Trust easements.
- LRPC Annual meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary

Minutes approved 07-15-2013