TILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
August 19, 2013
MINUTES

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

Minutes: Kathi Mitchell moved, seconded by Jon Scanlon to approve the minutes of July 15, 2013 as read. Motion passed.

Update of purchase of State land: Chuck Mitchell informed members that the deed has finally been signed and recorded for the re-purchase of Tax Map U2 Lot 72. Ben Wadleigh moved, seconded by Bob Hardy to pay Atty. Sessler’s invoice of $555.00 for the closing from the Conservation Fund. Motion passed. Jim Cropsey moved, seconded by Ben Wadleigh to pay T.F. Bernier’s invoice for $925.00 for survey work from the Conservation Fund. Motion passed. There will be an additional invoice from Klumb Environmental for the Phase I report which was completed before the purchase of the property. The report did not indicate any environmental issues, but was necessary so that if anything is found in the future the town will not be liable for it. It is not appropriate to merge this property with “Ernie’s” at this time because it could jeopardize funding of the Federal grant for cleaning “Ernie’s”.

Chuck Mitchell informed members that the balance of funds from the litigation settlement with the Attorney for the original purchase of this property has not yet been deposited into the Conservation Fund. The Selectmen want to wait until all legal fees have been paid for their case against the original owner. The consensus was that the balance of funds from the attorney’s settlement should be returned to the Conservation Fund and any legal fees that the Selectmen incur for the current action should be reimbursed through a settlement for that case. Bob Hardy moved, seconded by Jim Cropsey that the Conservation Commission request that the Selectmen place the balance of funds from the litigation settlement with Atty Chandler in the Conservation Fund and that expenses for the Martin suit be paid out of any settlement with him. Motion passed.

Snow Dump regulations: Chuck Mitchell spoke at length with Pierce Rigrod at DES who indicated that the state has regulations relative to snow dumping but no specific laws. There are distance regulations for well heads however. The concerns are how the dumping will be monitored, will it just be municipal or from contractors also. The salt remains in the soil forever and eventually gets into the water table. One solution is to use less salt. Members discussed the possibility of creating a snow dump area with a membrane liner over a clay base, but there would still be the problem of removing the resulting salt material. Bob Hardy suggested an asphalt material on top of the membrane and clay so that material could be removed and reused.
After lengthy discussion relative to this issue, Chuck Mitchell stated that the Conservation Commission needs to work with the Selectmen to resolve this issue which may in fact be better as a regional project as all towns have the same issue. Paul Rushlow noted that it is an issue that the town doesn’t really want to deal with as it is difficult to find a suitable location. He suggested using a property that is already polluted. Chuck will contact the Selectmen to let them know that the Commission is willing to help with this difficult issue.

**Buffalo Park:** The trails have not been marked and there are some large trees that have blown down on or near a trail. Chuck Mitchell suggested using some of the Easement Monitoring funds to hire a contractor with liability insurance to remove the trees and maintain the trails. Bob Hardy has trail markers but they have not been put up yet.

**Correspondence:**

- DES – wetlands permit for AW Towne
- Stormwater Management workshop

**Other:**

1. Work day at the State property: Chuck Mitchell has already weed wacked the level area. Bob Hardy will flag trees that are to be left. Most of the vegetation on this site is invasive and can be removed. Bob Hardy suggested asking the Ag Dept at WRHS if they would be interested in working on the site. Kathi Mitchell moved, seconded by Bob Hardy to ask Paul Rushlow to contact the High School to see if they can help with brush removal and create a design for the area. Jon Scanlon can mow and has a grader blade that he can move brush with. A work day is scheduled for September 2, 2013 at 9 am.

2. The brush along the river and retaining wall between the rail road track and the State/Town land needs to be removed. There is concern that the roots of the vegetation will disturb the retaining wall and eventually cause damage. It was agreed to ask Joyce Fulweiler to contact DOT to request that this vegetation be removed.

3. Bob Hardy reported that Katherine Dawson is concerned that the Tilton Wetlands Ordinance does not have any fines associated with it and therefore enforcement is difficult. Chuck Mitchell replied that the town needs a process established for enforcement of any of its ordinances. Kathi Mitchell commented that the town does not have the wetlands delineated other than the state’s general mapping. Chuck Mitchell
reminded the members that the Commission doesn’t enforce ordinances but the town should do so.

4. Bob Hardy presented an Emerald Ash Borer for identification. He indicated that within 10-15 years the borer will probably be throughout the state. Transporting of firewood is the biggest problem.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary

Minutes approved 09-16-2013