TILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
June 15, 2015
MINUTES

Present: Ben Wadleigh, Paul Rushlow, Jim Cropsey, Helen Hanks, Kathi Mitchell, Chuck Mitchell, Bob Hardy and Jon Scanlon.

Minutes: Kathi Mitchell moved, seconded by Ben Wadleigh to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015 as read. Motion passed.

Update – Ernie’s and Salmon Run: Chuck Mitchell reported that the Tilton Northfield Aqueduct volunteered to reconnect the water at Ernie’s at no cost. This allowed extensive watering of the new seeding on both Ernie’s and Salmon Run. With the help of recent rains the grass has established itself quite well. This is a slope mix seed with wild flowers. In order to have the flowers reseed themselves, the grass will not be cut until at least fall. There will be a quarterly charge for the water, but the Aqueduct Co. donated the cost of the connection. Helen Hanks moved, seconded by Ben Wadleigh to send a letter of thanks to the Aqueduct Co. Motion passed.

The stockade fence has been installed on the east boundary and Chuck reported that the abutters are happy with it. The split rail fence is to be installed soon. There is an area near the old dam site that still has some rocks and a few areas where the seeding is sparse. These areas will be fixed when seeding is done after work has been completed on the WRTA trail. Plantings along the stockade fence will also be done after completion of the trail.

Access to Buffalo Park: Chuck and Vicki Hussman plan to sell their property across from the entrance to the Middle School. Their property abuts Buffalo Park and they are interested in working with the town relative to access to the Park either by purchasing the whole parcel or perhaps a foot path. Chuck Mitchell stated that the town would definitely be interested in access to Buffalo Park, but cautioned that allowing traffic with a parking lot next to the house it would impact the value of the house. He added that there are not enough funds available to purchase the property outright. Jim Cropsey suggested that the donation of a conservation easement allowing a footpath on the property might be advantageous to the Hussmans relative to federal income taxes. It was agreed by members that another parking lot is not necessary as vehicles could be parked at the school.

Bob Hardy suggested that a designated path to Buffalo Park could be used by the School for cross country running. Jon Scanlon suggested that the Ag. Dept at the school might be interested in the back parcel. Helen Hanks commented that the Commission is definitely interested in access but doesn’t want to diminish the Hussman’s property value. Chuck Hussman suggested a 15 foot wide easement for a path but would also be willing to discuss a subdivision of the property. Bob Hardy suggested a site walk take place before the next Conservation meeting to
view the wetlands in the area. Helen Hanks moved, seconded by Bob Hardy to have Jim Cropsey speak with Cheryl Somma and Paul Rushlow to speak with the Ag. Dept. relative to the purchase of the back lot and/or an easement for a foot path. Motion passed.

Other:

- Katherine Dawson reported that a grave stone was found and turned over to the town. Research shows that the 7 year old child was a member of the Cass family who owned the land where Ernie’s is as well as across the road. She suspects there may have been a family cemetery near the river but the location of the actual grave is not known. Katherine suggested having the stone placed on the Ernie’s lot with a fence and explanation of the family connection to the land. Kathi Mitchell objected saying that this is conservation land and not a park. There are no structures allowed on Salmon Run and she does not believe there should be anything other than plants or animals on either Ernie’s or Salmon Run. Katherine Dawson responded that there will be a parking lot, a kiosk and a trail on the Ernie’s lot and it would be nice to have the marker on the family land. Bob Hardy suggested having it placed flat on the ground to help discourage vandalism. Chuck Mitchell suggested placing it at the Police Department since that was Cass property also. After further discussion, Chuck asked for a consensus on whether it is appropriate to have the stone on Ernie’s and if so, where should it be located. An informal vote was in favor of allowing the stone to be placed on Ernie’s as long as it is laid flat on the ground. Jon Scanlon suggested waiting until the trail and landscaping are complete to determine the best location of the stone. Discussion continued and it was suggested that perhaps the stone should be in Park Cemetery with other members of the family.

- Cheryl Somma had emailed information relative to rebuilding bleachers and installing a concrete pad for the bleachers at the ball fields at WRSD. Helen Hanks commented that since it would not be in the wetlands it is not an issue for the Commission. She recommended that the bleachers be on concrete piers rather than a pad in order to not increase the impermeable surface. She added that the construction equipment cannot be in the wetlands during construction and if work is within 20 feet of the wetlands a variance will be required. Jim Cropsey moved, seconded by Helen Hanks to send a letter to WRSD with these concern/comments. Motion passed.

Correspondence:

- LRPC Annual Meeting
- DES – Winnisquam Resort Condo Wetlands permit
• DES – Juliette Paquin – Shoreland Impact permit

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary

Minutes approved 07-20-2015