

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF CONWAY, MA  
MINUTES  
May 2, 2011

**Meeting Open: 7:00PM**

**Present:** Victor C. Trombley, Jim Moore, John O'Rourke, Tom Spiro

**Others present:** Kathryn Palmer

**Appointments**

**7:00 Open Space Plan - Diane Poland**

As a member of the Conservation Commission, Diane noted that the Commission intended to update the plan as suggested by the state. She described that the practical reason for having this plan updated was to gain state funding for various planning projects. The plan itself would allow for the planning of resource protection over the long run. She addressed the issue of eroding the tax base as a concern of some residents. She said she was researching how open space protection would impact upon Town revenue. Chuck asked if others would be involved and Diane noted that the Open Space Committee and others would be involved in creating the update. Chuck asked Diane to submit names of committee members to Tom to be sworn in as official members of a new Open Space Plan Committee. John asked if there were two separate grants and Diane noted that Janet would speak about this shortly. She also noted that there was a grant of \$6,500.00 available from the Small Communities Land grant project for completion of the Open Space Plan update but that the deadline was fast approaching.

**7:30 Farm land preservation - Janet Chayes, David Barten, David Fisher**

Janet noted that her Community Preservation Committee wanted to work with the Conservation Commission regarding a request for APR funding for David. David gave some background on work done at his farm. He noted that there were several lots in danger of being developed that would directly impact his production. He gave details about searching for funding sources to buy this land at agricultural value. Janet noted that there was a grant available from the Massachusetts Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Program that was reimbursable and would provide between \$68,000.00 and \$70,000.00 for the purchase of building rights. The sellers were asking a higher price than appraised value. Diane noted that David Fisher wanted to buy most available land in his vicinity. Chuck said he understood that the land would be purchased by the Franklin Land Trust and then the APR would be sold to David. Janet noted that the CPA would be asked to pay for the remainder of that cost. Williams and Lovot were selling these lots to the FLT. A third lot would be bought with CPA money and then sold at market value to make back the cost of the purchase. Janet noted that the Elwells had also filed to designate their land in the APR program. David noted that the existing Open Space Plan had listed this land as a valuable agricultural resources. John noted that there was about \$56,000.00 in the CPA Open Space Fund. Jim said he was in favor of preserving this land for agriculture. Janet noted that she would not work on this project unless the Selectboard was in favor of the benefits of this proposal. It was decided that this project needed further review by the Board but that they were generally in favor of moving forward. Janet mentioned that the loss of revenue for the Town would be minimal.

Janet also wanted to speak about Ron Sweet's property. Ron was willing to sell his two lots together. One lot had a barn that was slowly falling apart. David is now farming the other lot. She also said that Ron's land was potentially contaminated, but that here may be grey-fields grant money available to reclaim this lot.

**meeting items**

- The warrant was signed.
- The minutes for 4/19/11 and 4/25/11 were approved.
- The Board discussed completion of the Bardwells Ferry Road Slope Failure project. John explained that there was a need for paving and a berm. Tom explained that Bob Baker said there was approximately \$23,595.00 that had not been spent on construction to date, and that several additional tasks could be paid for using this money. Chuck questioned why Northern Construction was under-bid, and Tom and John mentioned that Northern had confirmed that this money was in fact available. It was agreed that the Tanny letter would include mention of plantings and fence to be paid in a lump sum. Tom will write release letter and give to the Board for approval next week.

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- The Board appointed Michelle Harris, Kate Van Cort, Mike Haley, Lee Whitcomb and Mary Irwin as members to the 250 anniversary festival.
- The Board agreed that Tom would administer the NOI for Roaring Brook Road.
- Tom explained that there was no longer a need for a special Town meeting to pass another version of the school warrant article, passed at Town meeting. This was because the Town of Whately had rejected the measure, and the point was moot.
- The Board spoke about the cost of the FRCOG accounting program, the audit for FY2012 and money from the Reserve Fund. John noted that he would call DOR to confirm that there was no limit as to how much could be spent out of the Reserve Fund at once.
- Osgood letter is approved. Tom will send out certified.
- The Board was given a copy of the release letter sent to Weston & Sampson for work on the Tanny property. This was notification and an acknowledgement that Mr. Tanny was being given the right to work on his own plantings and fence installation.
- The schedule of work to be performed on the South River project was discussed. Chuck took great exception to this proposal for completion and the general work of A. Pieria Construction. He gave a history of how this project had been extended. Tom will speak to Carl Gustafson with regard to the letter written to Dan Lawrence.

**Mail and Other Items**

- Mail items were reviewed.

**9:50 PM** Motion to adjourn meeting was made by John, seconded by Jim, all in favor.