

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MAY 14, 2002**  
**MINUTES**

**7:00 PM** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Owen.  
Present were Owen, Corwin, Morrison, Clements, Auman and O'Connor.  
Absent was Chace.

**Request for Determination – Bunn- 330 Lost Lake Drive**

Clerk Clements read the public notice to consider the Request for Determination submitted by Robert Bunn for landscaping at 330 Lost Lake Drive.

Mr. and Mrs. Bunn were present. Mr. Bunn explained that they want to smooth out the area behind the house creating a slope to the water and then put in a chain link fence to protect their grandchildren.

Chairman Owen said the worst thing about the site was the water coming off the road, below the driveway, gushes down. It is not Mr. Bunn's fault, it is the Town's responsibility. There is no drainage on the road from Lost Lake Drive and Lone Lane.

Clerk Clements expressed concern about application of fertilizers.

Chairman Owen moved a negative determination with conditions that sedimentation and erosion controls be placed to protect the resource and to prohibit the placement of any chemicals within 50 ft of the lake behind the house.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**7:20 PM Request for Determination – Straitiff – 109 Chicopee Row**

Clerk Clements read the public notice to consider the Request for Determination submitted by Ralph Straitiff to replace an existing septic system at 109 Chicopee Row.

Karen Corey, Realtor, represented the applicant.

The members visited the site on Saturday, May 11, 2002.

Member Morrison moved to issue a negative determination with the condition that hay bales and silt fence be provided to protect the resource as shown on the plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**7:25 PM Request for Determination – Town of Groton Conservation Comm – Skyfields Drive Parking Area**

Clerk Clements read the public notice to consider the Request for Determination submitted by the Town of Groton Conservation Commission to create a parking area at the Conservation Land at Boston Road and Skyfields Drive.

The parking area will be 36' x 18' made of crushed asphalt placed 50 ft from the wetland. The area has already been disturbed.

Member Morrison moved to issued a negative determination with the conditions that hay bales and silt fence be placed on site and to limit the number of parking spaces to four.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**7:35 PM Public Hearing – Town of Groton Highway Dept. – West Main St**

Clerk Clements read the public hearing notice to consider the Notice of Intent submitted by the Town of Groton Highway Department to install a water flow device at the dam on the Squannacook Sportsmen's Club property on West Main Street.

The abutters were not notified on time for the hearing so Member O'Connor moved to continue the hearing to May 28, 2002. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**7:36 PM Public Hearing (con't) Ken-Chris Realty – Hollis St and Mayfield Rd**

The applicant had submitted a letter requesting that the hearing be continued to June 11, 2002 to allow time for them to meet with other Town boards about this project for a change to the parking lot on their property at Hollis Street and Mayfield Road.

Member O'Connor moved to continue the hearing to June 11, 2002. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**7:37 PM - Discussion – Groton Lakes Association – Weed Control**

John Diezemann and Stephen Marrantzini were present.

Mr. Diezemann reported that he met with the Water Department. The Water Department will be testing at Lost Lake, Whitney Pond and the other side of the dam, which is known as the “porkbarrel” on Cow Pond Brook. The GLA will test Sargisson Beach and Grotonwood Beach. He found a company in California that will send test results within 2-3 days, for an extra charge, instead of the two week turnaround time. The treatment will be done on June 5, 2002. They will do the baseline two weeks in advance so they can get the data back in time. Signs will be posted for no swimming even though there are no swimming restrictions associated with the application. They will test two days after the application.

Ms. Montgomery will be present when the samples are taken for testing. Sargisson Beach will be closed the weekend of June 8 and 9.

Vice Chairman Corwin moved to amend the Order of Conditions issued to the Groton Lakes Association # 27 to the water testing plan for first time herbicide algacide application dated May 14, 2002 and change # 35 (28) to amend that the water testing does not need to be done by a licensed applicator as long as a third party witness is present. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**7:55 PM – Public Hearing – Bennett Black, Jr. – Lot 7A Burnt Meadow Road**

Member Morrison left the room. He is an abutter to the project.

Clerk Clements read the public hearing notice to consider the Notice of Intent submitted by Bennett R. Black, Jr. to construct a driveway on Lot 7A Burnt Meadow Road.

Dan Wolfe from David Ross Associates, Inc. made the presentation. He showed the location of the driveway on the plan. The driveway is 50 feet from the pond but the hay bales are closer.

Vice chairman Corwin said we should discuss that. She assumed when we said 50 ft no disturb that the line of disturbance would be at 50 ft or greater.

Mr. Wolfe said if that is a concern, they can bring the hay bales right up tight and move the driveway to the left so the hay bale line will be 50 ft from the pond. The trees will not be touched.

Chairman Owen said that on site, he asked how far they were from the stream. He paced out 180 feet.

Mr. Wolfe said that he measured from the sluice gate to the end of the wall. It was 180 feet.

Chairman Owen said that in the future it should be marked on the plan.

Chairman Owen added that we have one problem. We went to Town Meeting last night to amend our Wetlands Protection Bylaw because we don't have the limited projects in it. Do people see this as a limited project?

Vice chairman Corwin said this is outside the 50 ft.

Clerk Clements said it is a previously disturbed area.

Chairman Owen said he didn't know if it technically is. As long as it is outside the 50 ft it is not a limited project.

Vice chairman Corwin said if you were talking about a wetland crossing she would agree, but we are not.

Chairman Owen said we are not within the 50 feet and not within the resource.

Mr. Wolfe sketched on the plan the new location of the driveway to be 50 feet from the pond.

Vice chairman Corwin moved to close the hearing. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Certificate of Compliance – Bennett Black, Jr. – Dam Repair – 169-383**

Vice chairman Corwin moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to Bennett R. Black, Jr. for repairs to the dam on the pond on Burnt Meadow Road, DEP # 169-383. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**8:05 PM - Public Hearing (con't) Landwest, Inc. Academy Hill**

Clerk Clements read the public hearing continuation notice.

Vice chairman Corwin moved to continue the hearing to May 28, 2002. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**8:07 PM Purchase and Sale – Leon Hurd – Skyfields Drive**

Deborah Eliason, from Kopelman and Paige (Town Counsel) and June Johnson (representing the Hurds) worked together on the Purchase and Sales Agreement for the property on Skyfields Drive. The document was presented to the Commission for signatures.

Marion Stoddart was present with Mr. and Mrs. Hurd to express her appreciation of the Hurd's to have the vision to save this property and thanked the Commission for obtaining a Self-Help Grant that reduces the cost to the Town and

would like to have the property named the “Hurd Conservation Land” and should have the position of naming land for the donors.

8:10 PM – Member Morrison returned to the meeting.

### **8:12 PM Public Hearing – Establish Rules and Regulations for Flavell Crossing, Groton Hills and Skyfield Drive Conservation Properties**

Clerk Clements read the public hearing notice to establish rules and regulations for Flavell Crossing, Groton Hills and Skyfield Drive.

#### **Rules and Regulations for Flavell Crossing**

Member O’Connor explained that at the Land Management meeting there was discussion about the Conservation Area at Flavell Crossing off Painted Post Road and if it was appropriate for motorized vehicles.

Paul Funch, Wendy Good and Bruce Eassom from the Trails Committee were present.

Chairman Owen described the land as having a quarry and a Conservancy District. It is very ledgy with a lot of huckleberry, oak, some pine, very dry.

Vice chairman Corwin asked about the Conservancy District.

Chairman Owen said it has to do with elevations. It is an old zoning term.

Vice chairman Corwin asked if it had anything to do with significant habitat.

Chairman Owen said it happens to coincide with a vernal pool.

Mr. Eassom reported that the Westford Sportmen’s Club had marked trails so that four-wheeled vehicles would not get lost.

Member Auman said that State Regulations say that motorized vehicles cannot cross a wetland.

Mr. Funch said that destructive activities should be restricted.

Member Auman moved to establish regulations for Flavell Crossing that no motorized vehicles allowed and no hunting allowed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **8:40 PM Rules and Regulations for Groton Hills**

Wendy Good reported that she and Bruce Eassom mapped with the GPS, the trails on the Groton Hills Conservation Land off Kailey’s Way.

The trail is now marked to keep people on the Conservation land and off private property.

Gregory Branch, abutter, said he would like the Commission to ban ATV’s. They damage the land and trespass on his property.

Cindy McCullough, abutter, said she has the same problem with ATV’s.

Eric Healy, abutter, said the Conservation land boundaries need to be marked.

Member O’Connor moved to prohibit motorized vehicles from Groton Hills. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Vice chairman Corwin moved that no hunting be allowed on the Groton Hills Conservation Land. The motion was seconded and open for discussion.

Member Morrison said that before we go for the hunting aspect (and he is not one) hunting is only on two or three weekends a year.

Chairman Owen said that if you look at the regs there is hunting a lot of the year. You’ve got bird hunting and turkey hunting.

Vice chairman Corwin said if you are talking about deer, it is just a couple of weekends near Thanksgiving. The motion passed 5 yes to 1 nay (Morrison).

#### **9:05 PM Rules and Regulations – Skyfields Drive**

Vice chairman Corwin asked how we can establish rules and regulations and we don’t own the land yet.

Member Morrison said we can draft them, we can’t enforce them until we own the property.

Member O’Connor said that at the associates meeting last week, it was reported that the land is wet.

Chairman Owen said that at the bottom, it is wet.

Member Auman asked if there was a vernal pool on the property.

Chairman Owen said that is way at the top.

Vice chairman Corwin said that she and Clerk Clements went out on Saturday, in the rain and couldn’t find anything to

make it a vernal pool. We should check it in other years.

Chairman Owen said it is kind of marshy if you hug Myette's property, it sort of ridges up, but if you clear some invasives it would make for a good trail.

Member O'Connor wanted to determine whether or not it is wet to the extent that allowing motorized vehicles would damage it.

Chairman Owen said that section, certainly.

Vice chairman Corwin said there is one spot that the wet goes right through the trail.

Member O'Connor said it abuts the Conservation Trust Land and the Trust does not allow motorized vehicles.

Vice chairman Corwin said it would be tough with the slopes, you would also have erosion.

Chairman Owen said there are some wetland crossings if you go down below.

Member Auman said with Route 119, you will have a lot of people using it.

Vice chairman Corwin said snowmobiles are going on a bed of snow and wouldn't imagine they would be tearing it up as much.

Chairman Owen said he didn't know how you would get to it.

Clerk Clements said he suggests that it is not appropriate for any kind of motorized vehicles.

Member Morrison said that by banning it, you are banning future possibilities on the snowmobiles, because there is no place to go is not reason to ban them.

Chairman Owen asked the Hurd's, as abutters, if they had any specific wishes for use of the land as far as motorized vehicles or hunting.

Mrs. Hurd said that there have not been any snowmobiles on it for 25 years.

Mr. Hurd said he spoke to the Division of Wildlife and you can't go on the land and hunt without permission.

Vice chairman Corwin said that would not apply to Conservation Land if we decided to allow hunting.

Chairman Owen said that would be with permission.

Member O'Connor moved to prohibit motorized vehicles from the Skyfields Road property. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Vice chairman Corwin moved to allow no hunting on the Skyfields property. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Naming of Skyfields Property**

Member O'Connor reported that that in 1672 it was names Indian Hills and the Algonquian word for hill was Wajoses.

Member Auman did a lot of research of the native peoples and found that the Nipmuc and Nashaway Indians lived in the area.

Member O'Connor said that other names suggested were to name it after Isabel Beal who passed away in January or to name it Nipmuc for Nashaway.

Marion Stoddart suggested that the Hurd's name appear in the name.

Bruce Easson agreed.

Clerk Clements moved to name the land purchased by the Conservation Commission, the Hurd Conservation Land.

The motion was seconded and open for discussion.

Member Morrison said he thought we should consider Isabel Beal Conservation Land. This particular piece of property, as Isabel Beal looked over the Town for so many years, this property overlooks the downtown area, it seems sort of fitting for the property to be named after her. She is recently departed and he is not aware of anything else that is currently being named after her. This town should immortalize her in some way.

Clerk Clements agreed that something should be named for her but thought a building or park would be more suitable.

Member O'Connor said she thought we should recognize the people who lived here and thought the name Wajoses reflects the historic significance of the Native American.

Member Auman said he enjoyed doing the research and intends to follow up with more research but people feel it is important to recognize the people who make land available and it would be appropriate to name it for the Hurd's.

The members voted 3 yea and 3 nay to name the property the "Hurd Conservation Land" The motion failed.

Member O'Connor moved to name the property Wajoses Conservation Area. The motion was seconded and opened for discussion.

Clerk Clements thought Wajoses was hard to pronounce.

Mrs. Stoddart suggested Wajoses-Hurd or Hurd-Wajoses.

Mrs. Good said Indian names are not unique and there should be some recognition of the Hurds.

Member Morrison commented that all the major land donations, the people giving land are not asking the Commission

to name the land after them. Mr. Lacombe has given the Commission a couple hundred acres, Mr. Moulton has given a couple hundred acres and they didn't care what the land was called. It is interesting to get that kind of reaction from people who actually donate land.

The vote was 3 yea and 3 nay. The motion failed.

Member Morrison moved to name the property the Isabel Beal Conservation Land. The motion failed 3 yea and 3 nay.

Member Auman said the Town should honor her but not this time.

The motion failed 2 yea to 4 nay.

Vice chairman said this should be postponed until another meeting when seven members are present.

Member Morrison said we need a name so we can order a sign to be in compliance with the Self-Help grant requirement.

Member Morrison moved to name the land Groton Conservation Commission land. It passed 5-1 Owen no)

### **Minutes - April 9, 2002**

Chairman Owen moved to accept the minutes of April 9, 2002 as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Minutes – April 23, 2002**

Chairman Owen said in the section about Patenaude it says “Chairman Owen said that until the piles compost, Mr. Patenaude should submit a sketch.” What he remembers saying is, he was talking about bunkers and he wasn't going to make the bunkers, he planned to make bunkers but....

Vice chairman Corwin said he said the piles were outside the buffer zone.

Chairman Owen said Mr. Patenaude said he was going to move them and he was not going to keep on making them and he was told for the time being, submit a sketch, he didn't say anything about “until the piles compost”. We wanted a manure management plan. He was asking for a sketch of the piles and the way it was phrased was “until the piles compost”. That was not quite what he intended.

Vice chairman Corwin had a correction to the section on Ken-Chris Realty on Hollis St. Mr. Wolfe was talking about the oil traps and he was drawing the picture to demonstrate how a frog would get out if they happen to get in.

Chairman Owen said in the section on Groton Center Farms where the minutes say that he said “it is a new road and not exempt” he would like to add that by definition it is not land under agriculture.

Chairman Owen moved to accept the minutes of April 23, 2002 as amended.

### **Letter from Water Department – Land Purchase**

The Water Department submitted a letter for comment about purchasing land adjacent to Baddacook Pond.

The members supported the purchase.

### **Elementary School Feasibility Study**

The members thought there was not enough environmental information to comment on the sites.

### **Certificate of Compliance – Williams – Blossom Lane**

Member Morrison moved to issue a COC to Mary Jane Williams, 103 Blossom Lane for septic system replacement.

The motion was seconded and passed 3-2-1.

### **NEFF- Keyes Land on Peabody St**

The members walked the site on Saturday with Sue Yeager and John Sticklor from NEFF to look at an area that they would like to cut trees that are shading the Christmas trees they grow for sale.

The members decided that a Request for Determination should be filed for the cutting of trees.

### **Certificate of Compliance – Cahill – 267 Whiley Road**

On Saturday, the members inspected the drainage system installed by Michael Cahill on his property at 267 Whiley Road.

Member O'Connor moved to issue a COC for the work. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously

### **OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

Beals and Thomas would like the Commission to form a committee of different Town boards to work on updating the Open Space Plan.

Member Auman volunteered to serve on this committee.

10:00 PM With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Montgomery  
Conservation Assistant