

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 16, 2002  
MINUTES**

**7:00 PM** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Corwin.

Present were Corwin, Owen, Morrison, Auman, O'Connor and Chace.

**Discussion – Choate – North St**

Present were Mr. and Mrs. William Choate (owner), Jeffrey Hannaford (Norse Environmental) and William Lehman (contractor).

Chairman Corwin explained the reason they were asked to come tonight was to discuss a complaint about work being done on Mr. Choate's lot without a permit.

Paul Croteau, abutter, reported to the Commission that a wetland had been filled and work was being done near a wetland without a permit.

Chairman Corwin and Member Morrison went to the site on Friday.

Mr. Hannaford said the original plan did not show any wetlands and he took for granted the plan was accurate. Since they has discovered that there is a wetland, the owner has put in silt fence and hay bales to protect the resource area.

Member Morrison asked what happened to the big hole that was filled in as a result of filling for the temporary drive for the well installation.

According to the backhoe operator there was a depression that could have been a wetland or a vernal pool. It is not shown on the topo.

Mr. Hannaford said they could dig a test hole.

Member Morrison said our bylaw says no disturbance within 50 feet and this work is about 20 feet from the wetland.

Member Morrison instructed them to file a NOI first thing in the morning to be able to get on the agenda for the next meeting. The plan should show the temporary road, the wetland with the 50 ft buffer and the 100 ft buffer. There will be a site walk on Saturday and the house bounds should be marked. They should get a copy of the new bylaw. What they are doing may not be allowed.

**Appointment to GMAC**

Scott Wilson was the Commission's representative to the Growth Management Advisory Committee. He is now a member of the Planing Board and is unable to represent the Commission.

Member Chace volunteered to be the representative.

The Board of Selectmen will be notified.

**Order of Conditions – Landwest, Inc. – Academy Hill Subdivision**

Member Morrison moved significance, regular and special conditions. Due to the nature of the Order, it is a very lengthy document and the members took great care to assure that all lots were designated in the order.

Member Clements and Vice chairman Owen left during the writing of the OOC to attend a Trails Committee meeting.

The motions were seconded and passed unanimously by the five members remaining. The Order is on file in the Commission office.

**Nicholson – 216 Hollis Street – Driveway Change**

Allen Nicholson just happened to catch the members in the meeting and wanted to speak to them about the change plan for his driveway. The Commission had approved the configuration at the previous meeting but Nashoba Paving Co. questioned the need for the hay bales especially since there would be a recharge trench.

Member Morrison said that as long as Nashoba Paving knows where to get hay bales if there is a rainstorm and it looks like a possibility of erosion, he had no problem with eliminating them.

Mr. Nicholson marked the area of the recharge trench on the plan.

Member Morrison moved to accept the change in plan as marked at the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Update on Gibbet Hill**

Member Morrison explained that many State agencies and private conservation groups have been working together to come up with a plan and funds to save Gibbet Hill from development.

Member Morrison moved that for the purposes of the Gibbet Hill and Groton Protection Project encompassing up to 1400 acres, that the Commission would earmark \$400,000 for the various programs it could be applied to; Self-Help, Conservation Restriction, Agricultural Preservation Restriction. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with members present.

Member Morrison moved that if the Commission gets reimbursed by the State for the Self-Help Grant for the purchase of the Hurd property on Skyfields Drive, to apply \$100,000 to this project. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

9:30 PM Vice chairman Owen and Member Clements returned to the meeting.

**Lake Weed Committee**

Vice chairman Owen volunteered to be the Commission's representative to the Lake Weed Committee. A letter will be sent to the Selectmen advising them.

**Letter to EOEI Supporting Gibbet Hill Project**

Clerk O'Connor volunteered to write a letter to EOEI expressing the Commission's support of the conservation efforts by the Town of Groton and the proposed project to preserve Gibbet Hill.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Montgomery  
Conservation Assistant