

**GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**April 28, 2003**

**MINUTES**

Chairman Kris Corwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Groton Dunstable Middle School. Present were members Craig Auman, Alix Chace, and Peter Morrison. Barbara Ganem was also present. E. Owen arrived at 7:05 p.m., and B. Clements arrived at 7:15 p.m.

K. Corwin proposed a change to Article 18 of the Town Meeting Warrant for April 28, 2003, the amendment to the Wetlands Protection Bylaw. C. Auman pointed out that it is important that Town Meeting recognize how the Commission arrived at this viewpoint. The explanation should include cases in which the Commission was concerned about potential impacts as a result of work proposed in the buffer. After further discussion, and upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by A. Chace, it was

VOTED: to STRIKE in its entirety Sections A and B of Article 18 of the Warrant for the April 28, 2003 Town Meeting, as follows:

- A.) CHANGE Subsection 215-7.A (1) (b), Prohibited Activity, from “Erection of permanent buildings, including, but limited to, barns, garages, or attached structures” TO “Erection of permanent structures, including, but not limited to, barns, garages, or attached structures”;
- B.) CHANGE Subsection 215-7.A (1) (c), Prohibited Activity from “Construction of parking lots or use of land for parking of motor vehicles” TO “Construction of parking lots/driveways or use of land for parking of motor vehicles”;

AND ADD TO

Subsection 215.7A (7) “Driveways or retaining walls except if done in compliance with the Regulations.”

B. Ganem noted that the numbering and organization will differ as a result of the addition and deletions.

Informed that the Selectmen had just voted to support an amount of \$75,000 for the Conservation Fund article, rather than the \$200,000 proposed by the Commission, P. Morrison expressed frustration and disappointment. Dann Chamberlin explained that there is the general feeling that we need to take a breather in funding conservation acquisitions. Peter Cunningham stated that the Selectmen would support land acquisitions if a high priority parcel became available, but it should not be shoehorned into the budget at this time. Jean Kitchen suggested that the Commission consider supporting the Community Preservation Act as a source of funding for acquisitions. P. Cunningham also noted that the town has been very successful in protecting open space during the past 20 years, but there are so many unknowns within the current budget year that the Selectmen are reluctant to commit to the larger amount for the Conservation Fund. After discussion, and upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by C. Auman, it was

VOTED: to recommend a sum of \$75,000 be added to the Conservation Fund.

In other business, Commissioners signed off on bills to be paid and the Determination of Applicability for the Country Day School voted on at the April 22, 2003 meeting. K. Corwin also explained that the owner of the Rt. 119 property at the Littleton line granted permission to the Commission to enter his property, and Commissioners agreed that the permission tacitly includes permission to submit documentation to the Natural Heritage Program about the species observed on site.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara V. Ganem  
Conservation Assistant

**Approved as drafted 5/27/03**