

**GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

## Minutes

July 13, 2004

Chairman Bruce Clements called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members Craig Auman, Kris Corwin, and Bruce Easom were also present. Member Peter Morrison arrived at 6:40 p.m., and Evan Owen arrived at 7:13 p.m. Conservation Assistant Barbara Ganem was present.

6:30 p.m. – Appointment with emergency and school district personnel on use of the emergency access roadway at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School, Chicopee Row and North Street

Police Chief Robert Mulhern, Fire Chief Joe Bosselait, Emergency Medical Services Director John Walsh, Planning Administrator Michelle Collette, and Groton Dunstable Regional School District School Committee Chairman Alan Vervaeke were present. Chairman Clements explained that the Commission became concerned about the use of the emergency access roadway after the recent graduation ceremony when the roadway was opened to facilitate traffic leaving the site. Commissioners have always understood that this roadway is to be used only for matters affecting public health and safety. The purpose of the discussion this evening is to determine what is the appropriate use of this roadway and to be sure that all of those involved in the decision-making process are well-informed.

B. Clements invited the emergency personnel to define situations in which they anticipate using the emergency road. Chief Mulhern responded that he did not agree that the Conservation Restriction spelled out that this roadway is to provide emergency access only although he did note that activities are restricted from March through June 30. He also commented that it is up to the public safety personnel to make the determination as to whether the emergency roadway should be unlocked. Chief Mulhern reported that the lieutenant on duty that evening made the call to get traffic moving, and he didn't think it appropriate to second guess that decision. He pointed out that the facility is new, and there were over 1,000 cars on site for this occasion. The same number of policemen were on duty as usually cover graduations. Unfortunately, because of the size of the new facility and the fact that many people had parked inappropriately, blocking turnoffs and roadways, there were a number of concerns. The situation was further complicated by the arrival of additional drivers to pick people up following the ceremony. The lieutenant was not aware of the Conservation Restriction.

In the future Chief Mulhern assured the Commission, he will do a better job of communicating the constraints posed by the Conservation Restriction to his staff. He noted that there was recently an occasion in which his department was involved in a search in the North St. area, and this is the type of event in which he envisions the need to open the gate. He also commented that occasional patrols would be necessary, particularly to monitor such things as unauthorized ATV use of the property, something the police do on other conservation areas. Any use policy should address patrol requirements.

(P. Morrison arrived at 6:40 p.m.)

B. Clements concurred with Chief Mulhern's observation that the Conservation Restriction does not give very detailed directions for the use of the roadway, but he felt that this group should be able to develop a concept of what constitutes an emergency. Commissioners noted that this is a very ecologically sensitive habitat utilized by both rare and endangered turtles and salamanders. Although the Conservation Restriction limits the time periods during which work can occur on the emergency access, member Corwin pointed out that juvenile salamanders can migrate out of vernal pools from July through September.

Planning Administrator Michelle Collette offered background information on how the emergency road access came into being during the permitting process. She pointed out that given the size and population at the high school, it would have been a better design and plan to provide two accesses to the site. At the time, representatives of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District made public statements that the use of the secondary access would be limited to

emergencies only because of the presence of rare and endangered species. Many of the conditions in the special permit were based on these representations. It would be plowed and usable during all seasons, but the only use would be for bona fide emergencies, not in the case of an overtaxed parking area. It is a gravel road and not constructed to handle extensive traffic but only occasional emergency equipment such as fire trucks, police cruisers, and ambulances. If one is not familiar with the history of the project, this is an opportunity to gain awareness of when the emergency access road can be appropriately used.

School Committee Chair Alan Vervaeke indicated that, once the property was placed in the Conservation Restriction, the control of the access was given over to the different emergency departments to determine what constitutes an emergency. He felt that this decision should be left up to the professionals. Fire Chief Bosselait stated that he understood the access roadway was to be used for emergencies only. He noted that it is necessary to keep the secondary access clear at all times in case there is a situation in which the main entrance is blocked. A Pepperell fire station is located closest to the North St. access, and they would be the first to respond to an emergency at the school.

Chief Mulhern said he supported his officer's decision at the scene based on the extensive traffic and concern about gridlock. The standard operating procedure will be reviewed prior to next year's graduation in order to make changes and add more personnel. Chief Mulhern indicated that he did not believe it would happen again. P. Morrison stated it was not the Commission's intention to second guess the decision, but rather the purpose of the meeting is to concentrate on what happens in the future.

B. Clements said he was pleased to see that everyone is looking for a better solution and a policy on future use that addresses both the concerns of the Commission and those of emergency personnel. P. Morrison mentioned that this is the largest graduating class for the school ever. Chief Bosselait questioned whether only marked emergency vehicles and maintenance vehicles are allowed. John Walsh suggested that maybe the Town should think about another access if this one is inadequate. He noted that the speed berms and curbing make it difficult for equipment to travel anywhere other than in the roadway. Distance is another issue. Mr. Walsh indicated that EMTs living on the North St. side would use personal cars to gain access to the High School over the emergency access roadway. K. Corwin pointed out that because of the two rare species on site, the only reason this roadway was allowed to be built was to accommodate emergency situations. The state wanted to see the area protected because of the significant habitat. Another situation in which private cars might use the emergency access is for emergency evacuations.

C. Auman thanked the individuals in attendance and, recognizing the tremendous effort that went into building the High School, commented on the extreme sensitivity of the site. He felt that the roadway would be used at the most once or twice a year for emergency situations. In addition, he noted that the Commission, as the holder of the Conservation Restriction, is responsible for seeing that the emergency access roadway is appropriately used. He requested that the Commission be notified of the policy for future use and also given after-the-fact notification when it is utilized. Chief Mulhern said the question comes not on the emergency usage, but on routine patrol if we are not to do that, that's fine. P. Morrison said it is difficult to see the animals at night, but the Commission generally does not want traffic from March 15 to June 30. We need to be able to qualify this as emergency service. B. Clements suggested that a draft policy for appropriate uses to be circulated among all parties might be one solution. P. Morrison maintained that the definition of emergency is made by the personnel in the respective departments and the determining factor is whether it affects public health and safety.

Chief Mulhern said he will not second guess his officer, and he may not always know when the area is patrolled. It was agreed that all parties now have a general idea of how and when the emergency access is to be used. B. Clements said that he found the discussion itself tends to resolve the problem. K. Corwin commented that when adult blue-spotted salamanders move to the pools in March and April and also when the juveniles have transformed and start to move upland from the pools in the summer, they are very vulnerable to road traffic. Chief Bosselait reported to the Commission that people are driving around the gate at the North St. entrance, and he suggested that a boulder be placed near one of the posts. The discussion ended at 7:10 p.m.

7:00 p.m. Appointment/Josh Webber – Gibbet Hill Restaurant

Both Steve and Josh Webber asked the Commission for a recommendation on how to handle the duckweed growing in

the pond. P. Morrison noted that as a farm pond, it could be dredged. K. Corwin said that goldfish may help, but they are non-native and could pose a problem if they enter our waterways.

(E. Owen arrived at 7:13 p.m.)

Because these are free-floating plants, it may be possible to skim them from the surface of the pond. S. Webber said he thought copper sulfate had been added for the previous 50 years, and he has heard that Sonar also works on duckweed. K. Corwin pointed out that the problem is that there are too many nutrients, and P. Morrison suggested that that problem may correct itself now that the cattle are excluded from the area. E. Owen observed that the Lawrence Academy pond also is covered with duckweed. S. Webber, noting that it was an artificial pond, asked what if we get rid of it. Because it currently intercepts water from the hillside and retains it for a period of time, there could be concerns about channeling flow offsite. The volume should not change, but the rate could increase. B. Ganem indicated that there is a CD available on the state's extensive study of lake and pond management techniques.

J. Webber submitted a new sketch showing a proposed interceptor drain further uphill and the location of the trail north of the pond that will connect with the existing Gibbet Hill trail system. B. Clements asked how the parking on the conservation-restricted land worked, and J. Webber acknowledged that the designated parking area is not in a great location. There had been some discussion of using a lot on Martins Pond Road for parking, but this has recently been sold to the Groton Conservation Trust. For maintenance of the trails, it may be necessary to weed-whack them, but no grading is anticipated. Based on the submittal of the new plan and information previously provided, J. Webber asked the Commission to approve his intention to shift the protected wetland from the east to the west side of the new restaurant. There being no comments from the audience, members indicated that an amended Order of Conditions will be issued shortly.

#### 7:15 p.m. – Reedy Meadow Estates Subdivision Notice of Intent

With no applicant or applicant's representative present, the Commission opened and continued the hearing.

Upon a motion by C. Auman, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to approve the minutes of June 14, 2004 as drafted.

K. Corwin abstained from the vote.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by C. Auman, it was

VOTED: to approve the minutes of June 22, 2004 as amended.

Upon a motion by K. Corwin, seconded by C. Auman, it was

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on June 22, 2004 as drafted.

The Commission discussed Commission representation on the Growth Management Advisory Committee. Upon a motion by C. Auman, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to appoint Bruce Easom as the Commission's representative on the  
Growth Management Advisory Committee.

(B. Easom abstained from the vote.)

Because Alix Chace has been unable to attend the meetings regularly, members agreed to notify her that the Commission has now appointed Bruce Easom to serve as the Commission's representative.

#### 7:30 p.m. – 227 Riverbend Dr. Request for Determination of Applicability

Homeowner Chris Petroff explained that the gas line was located two houses away from him, and he wanted to have it installed between the roadway and the sidewalk for a distance of approximately 300 feet. All work is proposed in the public right of way. Members asked Mr. Petroff the distance between the trench and the wetlands, and he estimated about 30 feet. He explained that the gas line had already been installed between the street and his house. K. Corwin asked if the trench would be opened and sealed in one day, and Mr. Petroff said yes. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by K. Corwin, it was

VOTED: to issue a negative #3 Determination with the condition that the applicant or gas company obtain a road opening permit before proceeding with the proposed connection to gas service. Erosion control measures will be put in place per the plan submitted with the Request for Determination of Applicability.

Boy Scout Craig Heusser was present to explain to the Commission that he has recently (since the July 10<sup>th</sup> site visit) made improvements to the access ramps for the trail bridge he built at the Sorhaug Woods Conservation Area. He submitted photographs of the bridge. He requested that the Commission consider signing off on the completion of the project for him to become an Eagle Scout. C. Auman commended him on his work and asked if both sides of the bridge were stabilized, and C. Heusser responded that he had placed logs to hold the gravel in place. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by K. Corwin, it was

VOTED: that the trail bridge at Sorhaug Woods was constructed to the satisfaction and delight of the Groton Conservation Commission.

Members praised Mr. Heusser for his contribution to the Commission's goal of increasing public awareness and access to conservation lands.

At 7:55 p.m., upon a motion by C. Auman, seconded by K. Corwin, and a roll call vote of E. Owen, K. Corwin, B. Easom, C. Auman, P. Morrison, and B. Clements, it was

VOTED: to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation to return to Open Session at adjournment.

At 8:27 p.m., the Commission returned to Open Session.

#### Appointment – Larry Beals – Surrenden Farm Arsenic Remediation

Submitting new plans, Landscape Architect Cynthia O'Connell of Beals Associates explained that she was present to bring the Commission up to date on the soil testing at Surrenden Farm. The new plans show where deep and shallow soil testing is proposed. The soil sampling protocol has been approved by the Board of Health (by a vote of 2 to 1) to assure that any thing that needs remediation is treated. The testing in the wetlands will only be done by hand auger to a depth of 6 inches. No machinery will be used in resource areas. There will be a temporary disturbance for 36" depth tests in the Buffer Zone. The sampling tool will be washed between probes. A Geoprobe will be used for sampling within the roadway. The Town's consultant for the Board of Health, GeoInsight will be present throughout the sampling process.

In discussion on whether to allow private swim lessons to be taught by an off-duty lifeguard at Sargisson Beach, members agreed this could be done on a trial basis. The lifeguard would not wear a uniform and a limited number of children should be taught at any one time. Upon a motion by E. Owen, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to approve the general concept of allowing private swim lessons at Sargisson Beach on a trial basis.

C. Auman abstained from the vote.

8:45 p.m. Request for an amendment to an Order of Conditions, DEP File #169-802/Groton Dunstable Regional High School Emergency Access Roadway

Terry Gensel of Ross Associates requested a continuation of the earlier Reedy Meadow Estates hearing on behalf of Gary Shepherd. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by K. Corwin, it was

VOTED: to continue the hearing for Reedy Meadow Estates to July 27, 2004.

Mr. Gensel went on to explain that this filing involves the demolition of the farmhouse and some outbuildings, as well as the removal of trash and debris. Because the wetland/vernal pool is in such close proximity to the barn foundation, no erosion control measures are proposed. No machinery will be brought into the structure, but it is proposed to use a device that will lift the material out of the foundation. Ross Associates will direct the contractor to other debris that must be removed from the site as well. A well will be filled in with sand and the stone top replaced. For the demolition of the farmhouse, erosion control measures will be in place 20 feet from the structure in order to allow access by machinery. Any stockpiling will occur across the road in an area outside of the 100 foot Buffer Zone. T. Gensel indicated that the filing has been mailed to Natural Heritage, but no response has come in at this time.

K. Corwin requested details on how the debris will be removed from the barn foundation without disturbing the earth. Mr. Gensel explained that they would scoop the items out individually. B. Easom asked how they would prevent oil leakage from the snowmobile, and T. Gensel responded that there was an inspection and such items were determined to be void of any fluids. Mr. Easom recommended that they keep sponges or diapers on site to deal with emergency spills.

As part of the original filing, the Commission requested a pipe be installed at a point where water overflowed the roadway from the vernal pool in the spring. K. Corwin recommended that an elbow be attached to the pipe to raise the outflow elevation. This would prevent the vernal pool from prematurely draining. Mr. Gensel agreed that this could be done and the pipe marked with a stake to help in locating it in the future. Upon a motion by C. Auman, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to continue the hearing for the amendment to the Order of Conditions for  
DEP File #169-802 to July 27, 2004.

9:00 p.m. – Water Pressure Booster Pump Station/Skyfield Drive Request for Determination of Applicability

(B. Clements recused himself as he is an abutter.) Water Superintendent Tom Orcutt explained that the project is designed to improve water pressure for residents living at the top of hill. He noted that there is a wetland area located at the bottom of the hill to the right of Skyfields Drive. On the opposite side of the roadway, a ditch witch will be used to excavate a trench 2.5 inches wide by one foot deep. Haybales will be installed as shown on the plan. Mr. Orcutt reported that there would be a third and final meeting with residents in the neighborhood to let them know the final plan. He expects the work to start in August. The underground pump will be monitored using radio telemetry. Upon a motion by C. Auman, seconded by K. Corwin, it was

VOTED: to issue a negative #2 Determination for the Water Pressure Booster Pump Station.

Commissioners next discussed Fred Nucci's request to allow machinery to use the Northwoods Conservation Area trail to access and re-locate his fence from conservation land. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by C. Auman, it was

VOTED: to allow Mr. Nucci to bring in equipment via the trail behind 54 Northwoods Drive in order to re-locate the fencing from conservation land to his land. The work shall be completed in one day, and no trees with a diameter larger than 1 inch may be disturbed.

9:15 p.m. – Groton School Boathouse Notice of Intent

Attorney Bob Collins reported that his client is proposing an addition to an existing boathouse on the Nashua River, as well as improvements to better define the parking lot. Stephen Garvin, an engineer with Samniotes Consultants, noted that the proposed project is in conformance with both the Wetlands Protection Act and the Bylaw. They anticipate a 115 SF increase in impermeable surfaces as a result of the project. The parking area will be improved by the addition of a vegetated swale with infiltration beneath it. Mr. Garvin reported that the 100-year floodplain is at the 212' elevation. The existing boathouse has large doors which face the Nashua River, and S. Garvin stated that this building regularly gets flooded when the Nashua rises. Calculating that 50% flood storage will occur within the building itself, he indicated that the remaining compensatory flood storage area will be carved out of the wooded hillside that abuts the parking area. Because the slope will be steep, he anticipates using jute netting to stabilize the area.

B. Collins pointed out that this is a 50 year old building, constructed prior to the Wetlands Act. There is a significant amount of existing impervious surface area. The improvement to the parking area will help control water that currently sheets directly into the resource area. P. Morrison asked how the disturbed area will be stabilized, and Mr. Garvin indicated it would be seeded with grasses. S. Garvin agreed to send a copy of the NOI filing to Natural Heritage as the work area is in Estimated Habitat on the most recent map. The site is also within the Petapawag ACEC. He explained that the boathouse has a concrete slab floor and the section nearest the River is utilized for boat storage. The new addition will also have a poured concrete slab floor. The boathouse is 3.22' below the floodplain elevation of 212'. Stormwater currently runs into the wetland area to the north of the parking area. The area is plowed in the winter for security reasons, but it is not generally salted or sanded.

While containers of gasoline are currently stored in the boathouse, the new plan shows exterior storage of gasoline. Members pointed out that the Bylaw specifies that storage of hazardous materials not occur within 100 feet of wetland resource areas. B. Collins asserted that the Commission has the authority and discretion to waive this requirement for the greater public good. Chairman Clements pointed out that for new construction, the Commission looks for a 50 foot no-disturb buffer next to wetland resource areas. Generally, the Commission wants to see an improvement in an existing condition. In response to a question about a manhole within the wetland area, Mr. Garvin explained that he thought it was an abandoned sewer manhole related to an earlier filing before the Commission. K. Corwin questioned whether the wetland area has been investigated for vernal pool species, and Mr. Collins replied he thought it had been thoroughly examined.

Members asked if the dock has been extended as it appears larger on this plan than those submitted with earlier filings. Mr. Garvin stated that this plan was the result of an instrument survey whereas the earlier plans were prepared from aerial photographs. He said the vegetated swale is closed and has no outlet. B. Clements said he is concerned about the storage of gasoline at the site, as well as the excavation necessary for the compensatory flood storage.

John Lindberg from the Groton School buildings and grounds department stated that generally eight to ten 5-gallon containers of gasoline are kept on site. There is no transfer of fuel near the River, and this is an attempt to correct an existing poor situation. Mr. Garvin assured the Commission that the proposed storage unit is in compliance with water quality requirements, and storage will take place above the floodplain elevation. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by C. Auman, it was

VOTED: to continue the hearing to July 27, 2004.

9:30 p.m. – Culver Road Notice of Intent continuation

B. Ganem explained that Mr. Eliades had brought in revised NOI plans earlier this evening, and the hearing appears ready to close. Based on those plans, the Commission has prepared a draft Order of Conditions. P. Morrison made a motion seconded by E. Owen to amend Conditions #40 and # 47 and change the plan reference date to July 13, 2004.

K. Corwin questioned the procedure the Commission should follow as much of the information has only been dealt with in Executive Session. She felt that the plan and the Order are in the public domain. K. Corwin suggested the

Commission avoid the problem of introducing information discussed in Executive Session. P. Morrison indicated he was bringing the Order into the public domain by his motion. Chairman Clements advised the audience that in order to understand the Order of Conditions, they should look at the most recently revised plan. He indicated he would allow comments from the public. In addition, he explained that there are two lots which will have conservation restrictions on the sections abutting James Brook. Lot A-2 will also have two free-standing garages.

(E. Owen left at 10:05 p.m.)

Members noted that concessions were in order as there was a possibility of a Ch. 40B housing development. The conservation restrictions will affect whoever owns the property in the future. The details are being worked out for the conservation restriction. One "Approval Not Required" lot has been identified, but the remaining land is technically a parcel, not a lot. Appeals of the Order of Conditions must be on the grounds of non-compliance with wetland issues. Members explained that Mr. Eliades had been turned down by DEP for the removal of the weir.

P. Morrison expressed reservations about the amount of information being divulged as this was a delicate and lengthy negotiation process. Chairman Clements protested that abutters have a right to know what is on the plan. B. Easom stated he was in favor of public participation, and they need to know they have the right to appeal. He felt that showing the plan was okay but talking about how we got there was not appropriate. Upon a motion by K. Corwin, seconded by B. Easom, it was

VOTED: to close the public hearing for DEP File #169-886, Culver Road Notice of Intent.

Following up on his earlier motion P. Morrison, seconded by K. Corwin, moved the significant interests, standard first 17 conditions of the Order, and specified BVW, Bank, and Land Under Water for Condition #22, and the amendments to Conditions #40 and #47 and the date change. It was

VOTED: to issue the Order of Conditions for DEP File #169-886 as amended.

In discussion on the rules and regulations for conservation lands, members reviewed a list prepared by K. Corwin which will eventually be posted to the town web site. No one is aware of special rules for Baddacook Pond/Shattuck Farm. Camping has been allowed at areas other than Bertozzi on occasion and with a permit. There are no voted rules for Crosswinds concerning snowmobile use. Motor vehicles are allowed at Integrity and Lawrence Park per the deeds. Upon a motion by K. Corwin, seconded by P. Morrison, it was

VOTED: to accept the standard default regulations for all of those parcels for which no special rules and regulations have been adopted.

9:45 p.m. – Mattbob, Inc. Rt. 119/Boston Road Notice of Intent continuation DEP #169-880

Engineer Mark Sleger explained that he has been waiting for a final review from Judith Nitsch Engineering, Inc. based on the re-located driveway. He understands a response was written on June 9<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the work maintains a 50-foot no-disturb buffer throughout the project. In general only stormwater management occurs within the 100' foot buffer. He said that a Request for Determination of Applicability has been filed with the Littleton Conservation Commission, and they expect to visit the site on July 23<sup>rd</sup> with a hearing on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Only 450 SF of disturbance will occur 95' from the wetland, and he anticipates a negative Determination. The June 9<sup>th</sup> letter from Judith Nitsch Engineering, Inc. reviews the project for compliance with stormwater management.

K. Corwin asked if there were any provisions to protect migrating salamanders in the current plan as there is a low survival rate for salamanders at road crossings. She also requested information about the hydrology of the vernal pool before and after construction of the project. The amount of water, flashiness, and construction could all affect hydrology.

Mr. Sleger asserted that there would be no impact as the proponent will mitigate peak flows, and the project meets all DEP stormwater standards although there may be a difference in rate and direction of flow. Mr. Sleger stated that the hydrology will not remain the same in the vernal pool from year to year under natural circumstances. He submitted a complete set of calculations including the discharges to the Outstanding Resource Water, the vernal pool, and the project meets stormwater management standards.

B. Easom asked how the access would be during the winter, especially where the grade approaches 10%, and there is a need for sand and salt. Mr. Sleger indicated that there are alternative chemical de-icers. He also noted that traffic will flow clockwise. M. Sleger said Judith Nitsch Engineering, Inc. has requested additional calculations showing that Detention Basin 1 meets the 80% TSS removal standard. C. Auman asked if it would be possible to remove the sidewalk from the buffer, and M. Sleger replied that the ZBA has requested a connection to Rt. 119 and a small area for school buses. The Commission may consider sending a letter requesting reconsideration of this.

Josh Degen asked how this project might affect chestnuts growing in the area, and Mr. Sleger indicated he would look into it. K. McEvoy said it was her understanding that the June 9<sup>th</sup> letter was a cursory review of the re-designed project, and she wanted to know if there was anything further, in writing, to follow up. Leslie Lathrop requested information on how water will be brought to the site. M. Sleger replied it would come from Bayberry, down Sunset to Rt. 119. He indicated there would be a separate NOI filing for water as the Water Department will be the applicant and owner of the utility. He stated water stubs would have to be put in to each lot line. Questions were raised about how Groton water could go through Littleton. Mr. Sleger assured those present that the line would be within the paved area and would completely avoid the vernal pool. He did not know whether the water line would go above or below the culvert in Rt. 119. Members did not think this would require a waiver as the road is considered a previously disturbed area. Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by C. Auman, it was

VOTED: to continue the hearing to July 27, 2004.

Members briefly discussed the farm Conservation Plan for Groton Center Farm, but expressed concern that they are unclear on what it should look like and there was no signature from USDA. Regarding the use of pesticides and herbicides, there should be clarification on what types and amounts will be used. Also, questions were raised about whether the placement of interceptor drains will affect the hydrology that supports the rare species on site. P. Morrison strongly opposed raking this project over the coals a third time. B. Easom asserted that the Commission needs to get educated about this process. Pat Huckery from Natural Heritage has visited, but the endangered species on site were not identified. There has been extensive cleaning out of ditches and restoration of fields. P. Morrison felt that the Commission is holding this farm to a different standard than other Town farms. P. Morrison made a motion to accept the Conservation Plan, seconded by K. Corwin, but the vote failed with P. Morrison voting in favor and C. Auman, B. Clements, B. Easom, and K. Corwin voting in the negative. B. Ganem will try to get more information from Natural Heritage and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

C. Auman commented that S. Laudenslager has missed quite a few meetings. Members asked B. Clements to talk to her and suggest that she consider resigning.

(P. Morrison left at 11 p.m.)

Commissioners visited the Norris land on Pepperell Road on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. C. Auman said the buildings on site should be secured with plywood over the windows and doors, and hazardous materials (paints and stains) should be removed from the buildings. B. Clements mentioned that much of the damage is superficial in nature, but the A-frame has a poured concrete basement and stone fireplace. He suggested further investigation into the cost of repairing and maintaining the building. B. Clements said it could be a useful structure if someone would champion it.

Commissioners questioned how much the Boy Scout Council is willing to take on in terms of stewardship of the buildings. They suggested an article in the newspaper might be a useful tool to solicit ideas. Associate Member Marshall Giguere commented on the subsidence of the cement wall at the back of the garage. Members agreed that more information is necessary to see what the Scouts are willing to take on, but there is an immediate need to secure the structures and remove hazardous materials. It might be possible to have the Building Inspector examine the



structures to see if they are structurally sound and evaluate the cost of maintenance/renovation vs. demolition.

Upon a motion by K. Corwin, seconded by C. Auman, it was

VOTED: to approve the draft amendment to the Order of Conditions for DEP  
File #169-547 for 68 Hayden Road, as amended.

Upon a motion by K. Corwin, seconded by C. Auman, it was

VOTED: to approve the draft amendment to the Order of Conditions for DEP  
File #169-777 for 162 Hayden Road.

Commissioners briefly reviewed the discussion on the use of the roadway through an environmentally sensitive area at the High School. The situation will be closely watched, and members will check on the wording of the signs at the locked gates with consideration given to the placement of additional signs noting the sensitivity of the area.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara V. Ganem  
Conservation Assistant

**Approved as drafted July 27, 2004**