

## GROTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Minutes

### Open Session

November 22, 2008

Chairman Marshall Giguere called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. in the mail room in Town Hall. Members Wayne Addy, Craig Auman, Bruce Easom, Ryan Lambert, and David Pitkin were present. Peter Morrison was absent. Conservation Assistant Barbara Ganem was present.

Members signed several outstanding bills. B. Easom reported that Townsend did not support the adoption of the Community Preservation Act in Tuesday voting. Chairman Giguere indicated he would not be present for the Groton Conservation Commission meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup>; David Pitkin said he would be late as he was traveling for work that day. There are several controversial hearings – Gale and Gleason – coming up, as well as the budget for 2010. M. Giguere said the Commission should discuss the need for a GPS unit, restoring Land Use Assistant Regina Hull's hours, and the costs of equipment maintenance within the context of budget planning. He indicated he would be meeting with Town Manager Mark Haddad on December 3<sup>rd</sup> on the 2010 budget. C. Auman stressed the importance of breaking down expenses with supporting information on the acreage the Commission is charged with managing. A list of the mowing schedule is important, noting that the lack of maintenance leads to succession to scrub land and increasing maintenance costs in the future.

M. Giguere pointed out the management of Sargisson Beach is also an issue and whether we do this full time, part time, or in conjunction with the 'Friends of Sargisson Beach' (FOSB) is the chief issue. He noted there was a groundswell of public support last year when the Beach was minimally funded. The budget support documents need to justify an increase in Regina's hours, particularly what is needed and the possible impact if we do not get it.

Another question is the management of the Shattuck/Lewis land on Martins Pond Rd. Neighbors are complaining about the lack of management. B. Dubey has estimated it could cost \$2000 - \$3000 to restore the fields, and this is a requirement in the deed.

D. Pitkin reported he attended a meeting of the Fitchs Bridge Committee in which members were informed the project would have to be accessible for the disabled and also provide emergency access. In addition to the planning grant of \$60,000 already received, it is likely an additional \$30,000 will be necessary to finish the design to meet MassHighway standards. Town Counsel is working with the Committee to determine whether the consultant has fulfilled its commitment under the contract.

Upon a motion by B. Easom, seconded by C. Auman and a roll call vote of D. Pitkin, B. Easom, C. Auman, R. Lambert, W. Addy, and M. Giguere, it was

VOTED: to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a land purchase, not to return to Open Session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara V. Ganem  
Conservation Assistant

**Approved as drafted 12/9/08.**