

## **Dublin Conservation Commission**

### **Minutes**

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Anne Anable, Karen Bunch, Charlie Champagne, Suzan Macy, Howard Thomas and Sue Yarger

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, August 20, 2008 were reviewed and approved as amended.

**Imhoff Property Gift to Town:** Joe Cavanaugh provided the Commission with a brief history of the town's efforts to find ways to expand the town's cemetery and presented a proposal of the Selectmen to accept a gift of property from Peter and Teresa Imhoff. The property, about 1.1 acres, adjoins the cemetery and would allow for an expansion of the cemetery. The Commission found this to be a generous and welcome offer. The Commissioners passed the following resolution unanimously: "The Dublin Conservation Commission recommends that the Board of Selectmen accept the gift of property adjacent to the Town Cemetery That has been offered by Peter and Teresa Imhoff." The Commission also stated that it looked forward to being involved in the process of determining how the property would be developed, especially in light of the existence of water courses which drain water from Beech Hill into Dublin Lake.

**Bernier Mud Pond Property:** The Commission heard that Matt Tolman, owner of Interval Construction Company, had purchased the Bernier property on the northeast side of Mud Pond. The property is in the process of being cleaned up, and so far the effort looks to be a very good one, and one consistent with the need to protect Mud Pond.

**Dublin Lake:** Karen Bunch reported that the season's last round of Weed Watches took place on August 22 and August 28. A total of six weed watches took place over the summer, and Karen has put together an excellent summary of the types and locations of the weeds found, along with pictures and references to the NHDES Handbook "Aquatic Plants and Algae".

The Lake Host program, managed by Bill Goodwin, was completed successfully, and he made sure that the town more than fulfilled our commitment to provide volunteer hours. Bill did a fine job, and is willing to return as Point Person next year. The Commission was greatly appreciative of Bill's efforts, and recommended that a letter be sent from the Commission thanking him for the fine job he did. The Commission the following motion: "The Commission greatly appreciates the fine job done this year by Bill Goodwin, the Lake Host volunteer coordinator. He was the key to the success of the Lake Host program at Dublin Lake, and did great work in structuring, managing and reporting on the program."

Karen also reported that E.coli test results from the two beaches on August 17<sup>th</sup> were very low and that the final planned set of tests for this year was scheduled for September 17.

Materials on a substitute for hay bales for use in situations where the blocking of silt runoff is needed were brought to the meeting by Charlie Champagne. Paul Waterman researched these filtering systems and was sent the information. The brochures are now available in the Conservation Commission files at town hall.

**Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum):** Karen Bunch and Jack Lewis surveyed the town for Purple Loosestrife locations shortly after the last meeting, and took pictures of infestations. Karen has put together a CD of the pictures along with a listing of all infestations found. The Commission will be able to use the list to determine where to spread beetles next year, and will be able to use the pictures to see if the beetles are doing any good.

Sue Yarger volunteered to set up the purchase of additional galerucella beetles next spring so that we can distribute them to the areas of infestation that we found this summer that didn't get beetles. As mentioned last month, the Garden Club of Dublin has appropriated money in its budget for next year to fund the beetle purchase.

**Pond Water Levels:** The Commission discussed the need for better understood procedures for managing the water levels on the three great Ponds which lie all or mostly within Dublin – Mud Pond, Dublin Lake, and Howe Reservoir. The Commission was happy to hear that an agreement had been reached between the town and the owner of the outlet dam on Dublin Lake. This will allow for rapid response to a need to change the water level. The Commission was unsure what criteria should be used in deciding to change the lake level. Karen Bunch volunteered to speak to Kathy Miner about how Silver Lake in Harrisville makes its lake level decisions. Howard Thomas volunteered to talk with colleagues at Surry Dam to find out who is responsible for changing the level of Howe Reservoir, and to find out how they make their lake level decisions.

**Fall Mowing:** The Commission voted unanimously to hire someone to mow the field on the town's Howe Reservoir property and to mow the open part of the town's property on Route 137.

**Knotweed:** The Commissioners agreed that the elimination of spots of infestation of knotweed appeared to be a very difficult task, and one the Commission was not currently prepared to take on for the town. The area on Church Street that Brian Barden arranged to have cut earlier this year has come back thicker and more vigorous than before.

**Other Business:**

- Anne Anable noted that the NH Lakes Association Watershed Conference this year is scheduled for November 15. Both she and Jack Lewis recommended that everyone who could do so should attend. The day long conference is full of very informative sessions run by knowledgeable people from DES and around the state.
- Someone has marked the beginning of a trail on Carol Gebhardt's property with Cs. The Commission would like to know who is doing this (or taking similar action), since abusing land makes landowners less likely to put their land in easement.
- There was some discussion of the caterpillars that are forming webs and eating leaves in town. Howard Thomas said that they were Eastern Tent Caterpillars, and that, unlike Gypsy Moths, they would not do long term damage to the trees whose leaves they are eating.

**Meeting Schedule:** The Commission will continue to meet at 7 PM on the second Wednesday evening of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.