

From: **Rosemary Whitney** <rosewhit@maine.rr.com>
Date: Mar 26, 2012

Subject: Minutes March 26, 2012, Pownal Conservation Commission

To: Ruth Hannan <rhannan@gwi.net>, Michaela Goldfine and Kirk Niese <mickkirk@maine.rr.com>, asouthkai@aol.com, columbarius33@yahoo.com

In Attendance: Matt Welch, Derek Lovitch, Matt Welch
Selectman, Fred Fauver

Meeting commenced at 7pm:
Minutes from the last meeting were accepted.

1. Sweetser Property Walk: Matt began the meeting with a report of Saturday's walk of the Sweetser Road property. Two New Gloucester folks joined the CC as well as Fred Fauver on the walk. In general consensus that it was a beautiful forest property, the logging project created ready made trails that towns folk could enjoy that lead to a rocky summit. No invasive species were found on the walk.

Discussion of what we learned from the harvest and to make notes for the file for future harvesting contracts: Removal of scarred bumper trees if of merchantable quality, adequate water bars, blocking off access to landing area from road with stones or a large log, detail the condition for restoration of the landing area, were the suggestions.

Discussion of IFM final work: Matt reviewed the letter received Feb. 15,'12 from Jeremy Stultz, in which was stated the IFM would review the site this spring to see if additional closeout work needed to be done and that IFM would cover expenses for reasonable remediation costs. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted to send to him with our suggestions after our site walk: Rosemary agreed to draft a letter for review.

Further discussion re the neighbor, Mark Richardson, who lives across the street from the landing area, was quite upset at the thought that a parking lot was going to be constructed in the landing area. It was agreed that a phone call should be made to reassure him that no parking lot was to be put there and that the area would be reseeded: Matt agreed to call him.

2. Stewardship Fund: Matt asked Fred about the status of the Stewardship Fund available for Town Lands. The Warrant had proposed \$6,000. It is believed that it is closer to \$1,500, but not certain. Matt will check with the Town Clerk as to what was appropriated.

3. Sawet (sp?) Owl "Trail": Discussion of Derek's proposal to build and install and monitor a series of owl nesting boxes. He said some of the Town lands have good habitat for these owls. (They like thick brushy hemlock/fir). Derek can provide plans, and it was suggested that we get a school group to build the boxes. Matt will talk to Jen Blackstone about the idea. Matt will look for wood to be donated, 1" thick rough cut boards are necessary for the boxes. The goal would be to put them

up mid to late winter of 2013.

4. The Selectmen asked if the Conservation Comm. would be willing to review all Town owned parcels to evaluate their conservation/recreation value. The purpose of the project would be to enable the Selectmen to put non conservation lots on the Warrant for the Town to vote on selling them on the open market. There was some discussion as to the capacity of the Comm. to review all lots on a timely basis, and the problem of accurately locating them. Fred proposed that if the Selectmen located the parcels, and asked the CC to review no more than several at a time, and evaluate whether there particular parcels have a conservation and recreational value to the Town, would that acceptable.

After further brief discussion Derek made a motion as follows: Motion to accept recommendations from the Selectmen for a small number of lots to be evaluated by the Conservation Commission for their conservation and/or recreational value. Motion seconded and approved.

5. Plan to Walk the Goddard Property on Sunday April 22, at 8am. Ruth to put in Shopping Notes, Rosemary to notify RRCT.

Next meeting Monday April 23, 7pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30pm

Rosemary Whitney