

**Dover**  
**Open Lands Committee Public Minutes**  
**May 4, 2006**

Present: Marcia Colbath, Dona Layton, John Scruton, Tom Fargo, Wendy Scribner, Cheryl Niles, Amy Perry, Ann Kotlas, Joyce El Kouarti, Steve Bird, Geoffrey Njue, Anna Boudreau, David Price

Steve told everyone that the two hour parking limit was now being enforced until 8 pm downtown, so we may need to move our cars if our meeting lasts more than two hours.

We will review and approve the April 6, 2006 minutes and the April 26, 2006 workshop minutes at our June meeting.

Treasurers Report: Steve reported that the balance in the Conservation Fund was \$603,461 at the end of March

**City E-Mail Accounts**

Marcia is checking with Annie Dove to see if she can show us how to use the city email system. We should be conducting city business using the city email accounts that have been set up for us. Marcia is going to see if we can set this up as a workshop meeting separate from our monthly meetings. Tom can also present his History of Land Protection in Dover power point presentation at the workshop meeting.

**Task Group Reports**

**Easement Monitoring**

There will be an easement monitoring workshop hosted by the Strafford Rivers Conservancy on Saturday, May 6, 2006 at the Cochecho River Conservation Area (Cassily Property). The workshop is from 9:00 am to 12:00, and everyone will meet at Beckworth Park.

Tom mentioned that there was a report of potential problems on the McKenna Property (City-owned parcel), but most of the problem appears to be on the adjacent parcel. The boundaries need to be marked. JoAnna Dowaliby is tracking down the deeds for the properties to help clarify where the boundaries are.

Dave and Anna have monitored Sherri Towle's easement. Marcia, Dave and Anna monitored the Browne easement. A small farm dump was noticed on Sherri's land, but it is located out of the easement area.

**Outreach and Education**

We are sponsoring a Wild Bird Walk on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> on the Bellamy Wildlife Management Area. Darrel Covell, Wildlife Specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension will be leading the walk. Dona has sent out press releases.

### **Grant Writing**

The Grant Writing Task Group is working on a grant application for the Tuttle Property.

The FRPP folks want us to close quickly on our outstanding grant projects. The Task Group has been finishing up the paperwork to get reimbursed for Browne. The FRPP funds for the Hunt Project were nearly lost, but we were able to get all of the documentation required to keep this project open.

The FRPP appraisal of Holley is being completed. The survey is done, and they are working on the easement language.

### **Trails Committee**

The Trail Project has hit a snag. The City received a grant from NH DOT to finish the trail back in 1997-1998. The value of the grant has stayed the same, but the costs of construction have nearly doubled. The City has requested additional funding and has been denied so far. The priorities for the funding we have include getting the bridge fixed and getting a tunnel under Silver Street.

The City has a right-of-way for everything except for the section from Fisher Street to Central Ave and there are negotiations in the works for this.

Marcia said she will ask Bruce to update us on this project at our next meeting.

### **New Business**

Tom described the NH Coverts Volunteer Project, which is currently accepting applications for the fall workshop. Through the NH Coverts Project, people attend a 3.5 day training session to learn about forest stewardship and wildlife habitat management. It is an intensive field-oriented weekend where you learn about land management and conservation and meet with other folks interested in the same sorts of things. Tom has applications if anyone is interested.

There is also a Community Tree Steward/Natural Resource Volunteer Program that is being offered this fall. This training program focuses more on community trees and is based more in the classroom with some field trips. There is a \$50 fee for this program, and you have to agree to put in 40 hours of volunteer time in natural resource activities over a two year time period. Again, Tom has applications.

John handed around brochures that Strafford Regional Planning has developed.

Dona mentioned the "Pick Up Your Poop" Campaign, and that there is a lot of poop that has not been picked up at the Bellamy Wildlife Management Area Parking Lot. She asked if we could put a sign up in there. Morningside Park and Shaws Lane also need signs and a dog stations. Wendy said she would contact Dean Peschel about the signs before the bird walk at the Bellamy.

A motion was made by Anna Boudreau to go into closed session per RSA 91-A:3 to discuss real estate transactions. Seconded by Wendy.  
Passed Unanimously with role call vote.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve.  
Passed unanimously.

Dona will be secretary in June, and Cheryl volunteered for July.