Dublin Conservation Commission meeting, Wednesday, June 17, 2015

DCC members present: (Chairperson) Miriam Carter, Russell Bastedo, Jerry Branch, Katrina Farmer, John Morris, Wendy White, (Selectmen’s representative) Walter Snitko.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM. Minutes of the May 2015 meeting will be distributed again, due to failure of electric power prior to the May meeting. A truncated meeting resulted, and members present at the May meeting approved those minutes; but in order for the full DCC to review those minutes they will be sent out again.

2, 3. News from the Board of Selectmen: The Selectmen will consider the DCC proposal for Cobb Meadow Road planting of trees on an area adjoining the Transfer Station that was cleared during 2014. A Warrant Article prepared for the 2015 Town Meeting approved $2500 funding for this project. The DCC has consulted with a firm about how best to do the work within budget boundaries, and Vegetation Services has suggested that trees to be planted have their roots balled and bagged. The Dublin Highway Department has agreed to do the planting in September-October 2015, and to move earth in order to build a protective berm for additional visual screening. Chairperson Carter asked if DCC member Wendy White would be able to contact neighbors who adjoin the Cobb Meadow Road property, and who complained about the removal of original screening materials, for any comments about the proposed work.

4. Vegetation services and DCC members have reviewed the town’s “knotweed” situation and have developed a schedule of spraying for the 2015 season. The spray is an improvement over the RoundUp used in past sprayings, and the new formulation has been approved for use by the State of New Hampshire. A listing of the Dublin properties to be sprayed by Vegetation Services is appended to these minutes. Work carried out in past years has been very successful, but there is recognition that this work must be carried forward over the long term and not allowed to lapse.

5. The Dublin Planning Board has scheduled a June 20, 2015 “walkthrough” of a 117 acre tract purchased by developer Norm Davis, for future division into three parcels. The DCC wants to consider whether a conservation easement should be required in case of future subdivision development, because of wetlands throughout the tract. DCC members will request that they be included in the scheduled “walkthrough”, and that they be consulted for their approval(s) of future development plans for the tract when it is subdivided.

Solar Ordinance hearing for three proposals for installation of solar panels on lands owned by Dublin School, and by Yankee, Inc. The Planning Board wants to give its approval to these projects under the concept of “accessory use”; the DCC questions this application of law to these projects.

6. Purple Loosestrife project: The Garden Club of Dublin has in the past helped pay for shipments of New Jersey Department of Agriculture larvae that devour purple loosestrife when grown. Orders of the insects and payment for same have been made informally, without anything in writing, and this has
resulted in loss of momentum for the project. DCC member Wendy White will make contact with the Garden Club of Dublin to see whether there can be an exchange of written communication about the project. It is important that momentum be regained, and a written recording of transactions, however informal, will be of help to the DCC, which distributes the shipments of larvae to areas designated by the DCC.

7. DCC member Katrina Farmer is moving from Dublin. Her loss to the DCC is deeply regretted, but the Board of Selectmen have been able to approve nomination of Katri Jackson, head of Dublin School’s Science Department, to the DCC board. The DCC considers itself fortunate to have so qualified a member added to the DCC board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted, Russell Bastedo, secretary pro-tem