In attendance: Jack Lewis (Chair), Ed Germain, Jerry Branch, Sue Yarger, Karen Bunch and guest Louisa Birch

The January 2010 minutes were accepted as amended.

DCC 2010 Budget: The 2010 budget which was presented at the public hearing on Feb. 9 was discussed (see attached budget). The Dublin Conservation Committee was represented at the meeting by Sue Yarger and Jerry Branch.

Howe Reservoir: A discussion of Howe Reservoir property was led by Jerry Branch. Maps were shown to illustrate the work done on the town park and to outline future development. Trails and the picnic/canoe area have been cleared. Signs for the trails and points of interest will soon be added. Picnic tables will be added when weather permits. The development of an upland meadow is planned and research is underway to determine how this can best be done. Wildflowers will be planted in the meadow and woodlands when the weather warms. Jerry has prepared an article for the Dublin Advocate describing the park project and future plans. The article which will be published in the March issue is timed to precede the Dublin Town Meeting. An appeal is made for volunteers to help with the work and donations for contract work that will be necessary to develop the meadow.

Jack will talk with Bill Raymond to see if we can schedule a meeting with the Selectmen to bring them up to date on the Howe Reservoir project.

Monitoring town-owned Dublin properties: Sue Yarger will organize and lead monitoring walks and report on the Dublin properties. The first monitoring is scheduled for Feb. 15 and will cover the property at Mud Pond and the area near the Mud Pond dam. The timing will allow inspection of areas which will not be accessible after the thaw.

Japanese Knotweed: Sue Yarger has done extensive research of the Japanese Knotweed and procedures for combating its spread. The most successful method is through the injection of weed killer into the stem which has had a 90 percent success rate. Jack moved and Sue seconded the motion which was approved to buy a syringe and try the procedure. The cost is approximately $250 per syringe. Members will research potential locations to test before the March meeting. Sue also recommended that the commission continue to support the research that Doug Cygan is doing to find an insect to control Japanese knotweed.

Other Invasives: An invasive which we will consider at a later time is buckthorn.
Coordination with Dublin Lake Preservation Committee: Karen Bunch discussed the captioned committee which has been relatively inactive for the last year or so. During this time its work has been done mainly by Karen and Felicity Pool, with Karen reporting on activities and issues to the Conservation Commission. Karen recommended that, as the Dublin Lake Preservation Committee is revitalized, it will continue to work closely with the DCC as advocates for Dublin Lake. The Committee will focus on keeping the lake in its current fine shape, while the DCC will view the lake from a broader town perspective, while providing support and backing in helping fund efforts like the Lake Host program and helping resolve contamination issues. The DCC will have a representative on the Preservation Committee.

Dublin Lake: Karen reported that the Lake Host 2009 report had come out and that we had performed 378 inspections, with no problems found – another successful year. With regard to lake testing, she also said that Nancy Markuson, who owns property on Howe Reservoir, would like to start a water testing program there like the one being done for Dublin Lake. She is looking for our advice and assistance.

Conservation Fund: The commission discussed the coming need for funds to continue the development of the Howe Reservoir property. The commission decided that, while they were very much in support of the project (a number of members have worked on several parts of the clean-up effort), the Conservation Fund needed to be reserved for conserving, rather than improving, property in and around Dublin. They decided Conservation Fund monies should not be used for the Howe Reservoir park project.

Coordination with Topics and writers for the Dublin Advocate: A Howe Reservoir park article will be submitted by Jerry to the Dublin Advocate for the March issue, and Sue Yarger will put together future articles on the Asian Longhorned beetle and Japanese Knotweed efforts.

Forest Society Membership: Renewal of the Forest Society membership was approved.

A report on the NHACC Annual Meeting was postponed until next meeting.

Karen has information on the Zebra Mussel and will share it at the next meeting.

Jack moved to adjourn. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10.