Dublin Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 10, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Attending:
Jack Lewis, Rusty Bastedo, Peggy Cappy, Jerry Branch, Sue Yarger, Suzan Macy, Karen Bunch

The February 2010 Minutes were accepted as presented

Dublin Lake: Karen reported that the 2010 Lake Host Grant Application (after review by Jack Lewis and Bill Goodwin, Point Person) for a grant of $1000, has been submitted to the NH Lakes Association (NHLA). Hard cash for extending the ramp hours must be submitted to NHLA prior to the July 3 start of the season. Karen moved, and Sue seconded that the commission provide $500 for the ramp extension hours. Help on this may be forthcoming from the Beech Hill-Dublin Lake Watershed Association. The motion was approved. Jack moved, and Rusty seconded that DCC renew their $300 membership to NHLA. This amount will be credited toward fulfillment of the grant match.

Karen also reported that the Dublin Lake Preservation Committee will be meeting March 16, starting up again after a period during which there were no meetings. This group coordinates with DCC. Karen also reported that training sessions for the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) and for the Lake Host Program will be coming up in late spring.

Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) and other Property Monitoring: On February 15, four commissioners (Sue, Jack, Jerry and Karen) monitored 6 town-owned conservation properties around Mud Pond. Two of them were north of Route 101, and 4 were south of Route 101. Five of the six are LCIP properties. The types of things that they looked for were: storm damage, timber cutting, trail conditions, and any trash on the properties. The group also kept their eyes out for marks on tree trunks that might point to the Asian Longhorn Beetle. Sue led the session and recorded observations. She will organize more monitoring sessions in upcoming months.

Howe Reservoir Water Testing: Nancy J. Markuson, seasonal resident on Howe Reservoir, emailed Karen expressing interest in doing water testing at Howe Reservoir. Karen gave Nancy information about the VLAP program. This program organizes the testing based on water body, so Howe would be studied separately from Dublin Lake. When the VLAP training session comes up in May, Karen will contact Nancy again to follow up on becoming part of the program. Discussion ensued regarding who might have a row boat for her to use in collecting samples and where to collect samples. Initial thoughts are to collect inlet samples where Mountain Brook (Charcoal Brook) enters Howe Reservoir at the south or early eastern end of the reservoir, south of Route 101.
Japanese Knotweed: Sue has written an article for the Dublin Advocate on Japanese Knotweed control. It was felt that this article should not be submitted until the plants have started to grow. The new control method involving injecting herbicide into the stem of the plant (90% kill rate and very little regrowth) was discussed. The purchase of a syringe is being arranged through the NH Dept. of Agriculture. One of their experts needs to supervise/train in the use of the syringe. Sue also reported on what she found out from Doug Cygan of the NH Dept. of Agriculture, regarding the restriction on transporting Japanese Knotweed plant material. This restriction applies mostly to highway crews. Residents are permitted to transport the plant material to the transfer station for burning.

Purple Loosestrife: Noting that we released 2,000 galerucella beetles in 2008 and 2,000 beetles in 2009, Sue recommended that we place an order reserving 2,000 beetles for release in 2010. The suppliers would send the beetles when they are available and we’re ready for them (probably receiving 1,000 in late July and 1,000 in late August.) Jack moved and Rusty seconded that the above order be placed. The motion passed. The cost of the Beetles is $200 per 1000 plus shipping, with an additional cost of $10 per container. Suzie and Karen will double check that the Garden Club of Dublin is planning to help with the cost of the beetles.

Asian Longhorn Beetle: Sue has written an article on the Asian Longhorn Beetle for submission to the Dublin Advocate. The plan is to submit it for the April edition. Discussion of number of columns and whether it should be a tip-in (insert that readers can keep as a resource) ensued. Sue agreed to email the article to commissioners for review prior to submitting it. She will check with Advocate editor, Matt Wagner, about the cost of having a tip-in.

Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) Dinner: March 16 at Papagallos in Keene, speaker topic Resource Recovery: Jack plans to attend.

Mapping and Clearing Trails: Eventually it is hoped that a trail system will connect Dark Pond to Beech Hill. Recently a trail has been reestablished from Old Harrisville Road to Route 101 via Blackberry Lane.

Mapping: Jerry plans to use the plane table mapping system for Howe Reservoir. He showed commissioners his initial draft.

Other Business: Commissioners were invited to attend:

Wild Turkey Habitat Management Seminar on April 7 in Westmoreland
Drinking Water Source Protection Workshop on April 30 in Concord
Wetland Reserve Protection Workshop on March 30 in Keene
Saving Special Places Program presented by Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and UNH Cooperative Extension on April 10 in Weare

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. The next meeting will be April 14, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Bunch, acting secretary