Dublin Conservation Commission

2007 Meeting Minutes
Consolidated

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Karen Bunch, Suzan Macy, Ned Whitney, Sue Yarger, Selectman Sterling Abram and Sara Doenmez and Chris Riley from Dublin School

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, November 14, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Dublin School: Sara Doenmez described some of the conservation-related activities that they had heard about and would be interested in following or being actively involved in. They included: Beetle work on purple loosestrife (Lythrum); control of Japanese knotweed; work on town/conservation properties such as Howe Reservoir, Route 137, and Beech Hill, with work possibly including property review, recommendations for use, recommendations for maintenance or development as conservation/recreation areas, development of appropriate signage, and formation of work teams to move from design to reality.

Sara Doenmez also mentioned that Dublin School already has trails and nature areas that they would be pleased to make part of a larger whole.

The Commission was delighted with the ideas, interest and enthusiasm shown by Dublin School, and looks forward to working with the school in a number of the areas mentioned. More firm plans will be made during the first few months of 2008.

Iorio Property: The Iorio property lies on the Marlborough border and runs south from route 101 toward Stone Pond. Clough Harbor had called to say that it wasn’t quite far enough along with its work on plans for the property to make its planned presentation to the Commission. The Commission briefly reviewed the history of the property. The previous owner had violated a number of DES regulations and the property is under orders to be cleaned up. This work has been happening, and the new owner, who has interests in both raising horses and racing cars, will be coming to several town boards and commissions for consideration of plans to make use of the property.

Frost Pond Dock: The Commission discussed the recent complaint made to NH Department of Environmental Services about the existence and deterioration of a dock on Frost Pond. Members of the Commission had seen the problems referred to by the complaint, and the Commission agreed to write NHDES expressing the Commission’s belief that the complaint has merit and its hope that DES will review the complaint as soon as possible.
Route 137 Property behind Life Safety: The Commission discussed the visit of several members to the town’s property near Life Safety. The participants found a scrubland with fairly poor soil, some field, some emerging forest, and great views of Mud Pond, which forms the property’s eastern border. Their initial impression was that the property could be modified to enhance the views and provide limited parking for a reasonable cost. They recommended that putting together a more detailed plan for development and use could be a great initial project for the Dublin School. The Commission concurred with this recommendation.

Dublin Lake:

1) Water Testing: On November 28, Karen Bunch and Felicity Pool got follow-up samples of water from the sites recommended by Ken Warren of NHDES. The tests came back with good results, indicating that there wasn’t an ongoing problem at any of the sites.

Karen also reported that the arrangement of having Rusty Bastedo, Susan Emerson and Judy Knapp take water sample to Concord had been set up and was working well so far.

2) Lake Host: Karen reported that neither Jerry Lawler nor Hank Campbell feels that they can be the Lake Host Point Person in 2008. This is the volunteer coordinator for the Lake Host program. Karen is continuing to look for a replacement, and would be happy to get recommendations.

Beech Hill Clean Up: Jack Lewis reported that the cleanup of the property is virtually complete, with the lagoon drained, all buildings other than the Platt House gone, and the property being returned to its predevelopment state. He also mentioned that the Platt House property, with the house and about 13 acres, had been put on the market at the end of November.

Open Space: Jack Lewis commented that the Open Space Planning Committee was in the process of putting together a draft Open Space plan.

Meeting Schedule: The Commission decided to continue to meet at 7 PM on the second Wednesday evening of each month for the first quarter of 2008. Meetings were scheduled for January 9, February 13 and March 12, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Karen Bunch, Suzan Macy, Howard Thomas, Ned Whitney, Selectman Sterling Abram and Eric Nemitz from Dublin School

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, October 10, 2007 were reviewed and approved as amended.

Town Property near Life Safety: The Commission discussed the condition of the property and some possible uses for it. The members decided to visit the property at 2:30 PM on Saturday, November 24 to gain a better feel for the property’s prospects.
Ditchings: Sterling Abram reported that the Highway Department is developing a budget figure to clarify the cost of storing rather than simply dumping at several roadside locations the materials removed from the town’s roadside ditches on an annual basis. The ditches contain both sand and organic matter, and no large rocks. They could be valuable fill for residents if stored and made available.

Dublin Lake:

1) Water Testing: Karen Bunch reported that Ken Warren and Walter Henderson, two biologists with NHDES had come to Dublin on October 23 to review the sites on Dublin Lake where high levels of E. coli or phosphorus had been found in September. They were joined by Karen, Anne Anable, Jack Lewis and Paul Waterman.

They confirmed that the September 11 water tests performed by Karen Bunch and Felicity Pool, which showed high E.coli results, were done during the first real rain after a long dry spell. They said such results were non unusual under such conditions. They inspected the sites of the four worst tests, and found no evident potential causes of ongoing high readings. The NHDES personnel took a water sample from the Meryman Road culvert, which was the only one reviewed which had flowing water. The sample was tested and was found to have a very low E. coli reading.

Ken Warren recommended that the town retest the problem sites early in the next rain, but he was not at this point worried that the town had an environmental problem on an ongoing basis. Karen concluded by stating that she and Felicity Pool needed help if the town was to maintain an effective water testing program for Dublin Lake.

2) Lake Host: Karen reported that Jerry Lawler has stated that he will not be able to serve as volunteer coordinator for the Lake Host program for 2008. She is looking for a replacement, and would be happy to get recommendations.

Other Water Testing: The Commission briefly discussed the status of water quality testing on its other ponds. It was noted that Leslie Whone tests Frost Pond, that the Town of Jaffrey tests Thorndike Pond, that the town of Marlborough tests Stone pond, and that, while no one is known to test Howe Reservoir, there are not many residences on the reservoir and it is little used for swimming.

Coordination with Dublin School: The Commission discussed with Eric Nemitz, who teaches Environmental Science at Dublin School, the possibility of having Dublin school students work with the Commission on planning and implementing improvements to town conservation lands. Such efforts might include trail maintenance, trail development, making land use recommendations, and implementing approved plans. Both Eric and the Commission members were quite excited about the possibilities of such activities involving the Route 137 property near Life Safety, the property on Howe Reservoir, and the property abutting Dublin School on Beech Hill. Eric volunteered to talk with others at th Dublin School, and to get back to the commission with a somewhat concrete plan of action.

Open Space: Jack Lewis commented that the Open Space Planning Committee had had a Public Information Meeting on November 7 to get input from other residents. At the meeting it presented a map showing proposed areas Open Space value and described the characteristics of each area which make it valuable. With initial input from the public, the Committee’s next step is to put together a draft plan.
Howe Reservoir and Life Safety Fields: Jack Lewis reported that both properties had been mowed, but that additional work was needed to keep them viable public space.

NHACC Activities: Jack Lewis reported that he had been to the New Hampshire Association Of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) Annual Meeting, and that he had found it informative and interesting. He recommended that other Commission members attend the next Annual Meeting, and also that they put April 5, 2008 on their calendars. This is the date of the 2008 statewide Land Conservation Conference.

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting of the Commission is Wednesday December 12 at 7 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

**Wednesday, October 10, 2007**

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Karen Bunch, Suzan Macy, Ned Whitney, Sue Yarger and Selectman Sterling Abram

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, September 12, 2007 were reviewed and approved as amended.

Dublin Lake: Karen Bunch reported on a number of developments regarding Dublin Lake:

1. **Weed Watch** – The last weed watch of the season took place on September 13, with Susan Peters and Howard Thomas snorkeling and Sheila King, Mary Lee and Karen Bunch kayaking. All weeds found were non-invasive. Karen Bunch put together a log of the Weed Watch team’s results this year, since much more vegetation was noted than in previous years.

2. **Lake Host Program** – Final reports have been delivered to the Lakes Association. Suzy Macy proposed and Sue Yarger seconded a motion of thanks to the coordinators: “The Commission greatly appreciates the super job done this year by Jerry Lawler and Hank Campbell, the Lake Host volunteer coordinators. They were key to the reinstatement of the Lake Host program at Dublin Lake, and did great work in structuring, managing and reporting on the program.” The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Water Testing**
   
a. The September 11 water tests performed by Karen Bunch and Felicity Pool showed high E.coli results in 9 of the 30 inlets tested. Sara Sumner, the NHDES VLAP coordinator, reviewed the sources with high E. coli counts on September 27, accompanied by Karen Bunch, Felicity Pool, Anne Anable, Jack Lewis, Tom Wright, and Paul Waterman. The state has now classed the results as a complaint, and will do further review and recommend additional testing and other steps as warranted.

b. On October 5, phosphorous test results arrived from the water testing, and they showed 14 sites with high phosphorous readings. The state will also be following up on this.
Cemetery Wetlands: Jack Lewis and Joe Cavanaugh met informally with Dawn Buker of NHDES to review the wetlands along the south side of the cemetery. Dawn indicated that the wetlands were pretty easily demarcated and that it was very unlikely that NHDES would allow any wetlands to be used for a cemetery. She also said that there looked to be some space north of the wetlands that might be usable as a modest expansion area. Joe Cavanaugh said that he would revise the (1974) cemetery expansion proposal, and would review its feasibility with the Cemetery Committee.

Open Space: Jack Lewis commented that the Open Space Planning Committee had had two meetings, with another scheduled for October 11. Review of initial Open Space Criteria and Priority Areas is just about complete, and the committee is planning a Public Information Meeting to get input from other residents for sometime in November.

Howe Reservoir and Life Safety Fields: Further review of town owned property suggested that the open areas on the property behind Life Safety on Route 137 also be mowed, and that further maintenance be considered for next spring. Sue Yarger proposed and Suzan Macy seconded a motion to authorize the mowing of the field on the property behind Life Safety this fall. The motion passed unanimously.

Forest Society Annual Meeting: Sue Yarger described her attendance at the Forest Society annual meeting. She said that both the field trip and the opportunities to meet with a number of others interested in conservation were both fun and informative. Among many other things, she found a Vermont-based group that was willing to do flyovers for conservation mapping, and she got information on techniques for controlling Japanese knotweed, a potential focus for the Commission for next year. She said she found the meeting well worth doing.

2008 Budget: Jack Lewis mentioned that he had modified the original draft budget to reflect better information on the costs of maintenance and testing, and that the budget discussion with the Budget Committee was set for October 16.

Ditching Disposal: Sterling Abram mentioned that the Selectmen were moving to eliminate the dumping of ditchings (the sand and organic materials which are removed from the roadside ditches annually by the highway department). Sterling said that the ditchings were excellent fill materials, and that he expected that they would be useful to residents if the resident knew of their availability. The Commission agreed that it would make sense to publicize the availability of ditchings, in the Advocate and at Town Hall, and that it would be good to stop creating unsightly piles along roadsides.

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting of the Commission is Wednesday November 14 at 7 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Wednesday, September 12, 2007**

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Karen Bunch, Howard Thomas, Ned Whitney, Sue Yarger, Jane Young, Selectmen Sterling Abram and Anne Anable
The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, August 8, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Dublin Lake:  Karen Bunch reported on a number of developments regarding Dublin Lake:

1.  Lake Host Program- The summer Lake Host program is complete.  The Lake Hosts were on the job weekends all summer, and the volunteer supervisors, Jerry Lawler and Hank Campbell did a super job of structuring, managing and reporting on the program.  Jerry will be submitting a final report to us and the NH Lakes Association later this month.

2.  Water Testing- Karen Bunch and Felicity Pool have met with Paul Waterman to coordinate water testing, and have worked with him on the use of the VLAP web site which carries the water testing results.  Recent water tests were carried out on August 27 and September 11, and a deep spot test is planned for September 17.

3.  Weed Watch- Ken Warren and a crew of two others from the NHDES snorkeled Cemetery Cove on August 24 and found no evidence of milfoil (or any other problems-they love coming to our clean, clear lake).  A second round of weed watches started on August 30 from the Women’s Club Beach, with a watch from the Boat Launch planned for September 13.  While we have found a number of different plants this summer, none of them are problems, and some, like pipewort, are marks of a healthy lake.

Stone Pond – Karen Bunch mentioned that during her conversation with Paul Waterman, Paul had expressed concern about the crowded conditions on the Dublin side of Stone Pond.  Marlborough has been testing the pond.  If Paul monitors their year-end report each year through the VLAP website, he will be able to gain helpful information about the water quality of Stone Pond.  Paul will also be watching for septic and other usage violations there.

Purple Loosestrife Management: Sue Yarger reported that our source for galerucella beetles ran out of beetles by the time the state approved Dublin’s use of the beetles.  We are now approved, and we are on the top of the list for getting beetles next year as soon as the Purple Loosestrife appears next spring.  Jack Lewis reported that he had talked with several Dublin landowners with infestations of Purple loosestrife and had gotten agreement for the use of the beetles from some, but not yet all, of them.

Cemetery Cove Silting and Cemetery Expansion near Old Pound Road: We have been in contact with NHDES, and expect a visit from one of their staff during the week of September 17.

Howe Reservoir Field:  The Commission voted to have the Howe Reservoir field mowed this fall, to prevent it from reverting to forest.

Open Space: Jack Lewis and Sterling Abram announced that the Board of Selectmen had formed an Open Space Committee with Sterling Abram, Anne Anable, Ed Germain, Betsey Harris, Henry James, Jack Lewis, Bruce Simpson, Mike Walker, and Sue Yarger as members.  The first meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 13, and it appears that the Committee’s first task will be to review the result of the work of the 2006 Ad Hoc Open Space Committee and to begin to create an Open Space Plan for the town.
2008 Budget: The Commission reviewed the first draft of the 2008 budget, which was handed out by Jack Lewis. Commission members noted that Lake Monitoring costs would likely be higher than shown on the first draft budget, and that the Commission should be more active in invasives control than it had been in 2007. Sterling Abram recommended that we look at the budget from a long term, programmatic point of view (where do we want to focus and how do we budget over time so that we aren’t suddenly hit with major budget needs) in addition to looking specifically at next year. Jack noted that a draft of a 2008 budget had been asked for by September 17, but that we could continue to review and modify after that date. He asked that members get back to him with thoughts about areas needing more (or fewer) dollars for 2008.

Meeting Schedule: The Commission agreed to meet at 7 PM on the second Wednesday of each month for the rest of 2007. Specific dates are October 10, November 14, and December 12.

Outside Activities:

· Monadnock Conservancy Annual Meeting August 25, 2007 – The meeting highlighted several major activities in the past year, including the Conservancy’s important role in the purchase of the Beech Hill Hospital property, and the consummation of easements on several properties abutting Frost Pond in Jaffrey, on Dublin’s southern border. Dublin’s Betsey Harris was honored with a major award from the Conservancy.

· The Forest Society Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2007

· The SouthWest Regional Planning Commission has a number of interesting workshops scheduled this fall, and Anne Anable handed out copies of the workshop descriptions and registration forms to the Commission members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Karen Bunch, Suzan Macy, Ned Whitney, Sue Yarger, Selectman Sterling Abram.

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, May 23, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Dublin Lake: Karen Bunch reported on a number of developments regarding Dublin Lake:

1. Water Testing- The first set of water testing was done on June 11 and the results should be available to all quite soon over the web on the NH DES website. A separate test for coliform bacteria at the boat ramp turned up a relatively high reading, but a retest showed no continuing problem. The bacteria could well have come from a recent visit to the site by a bird, and there have been a number of mergansers in the area.

2. Milfoil Monitoring – We have had two weed watching events at Dublin Lake. On the first, from Brown Cove to West Lake and Rte 101, we found some suspicious looking plants, and subsequently found that they were native milfoil and not a problem.
Amy Smagula of DES will be out in the next several weeks to check further. We sent a couple of items for identification by DES from the second lake visit, which went from the boat ramp to Eastlake and to Rte 101. We didn’t feel that they were actually a problem, just something we weren’t sure about.

3. Lake Host Program- We are ready to go with weekend hosting for the summer.

Valley Road Cell Phone Tower: ZBA and Planning Board meetings continue, with a walk of the property (replicating the one the Conservation Commission took with the landowner in April), and a joint ZBA and Planning Board meeting to follow. It would be nice to have Conservation Commission members attend, but nothing has changed in the plans since we walked the property and wrote the ZBA expressing our concern about the impact of the planned driveway on the wetlands on the Hale property.

Loosestrife Management: It is still too early to photograph and define areas needed for Loosestrife management on Mud Pond. Sue Yarger will monitor the development of plants and will let us know what is needed when they are in bloom.

Federal Flood Insurance: No progress as yet in determining what the town needs to do to make its citizens eligible for Federal flood insurance.

Open Space: The Commission reviewed the results of the work done in late 2006 by an ad hoc Open Space Committee, and discussed how to go forward from there. They also reviewed a draft outline of a plan, and other information on creating an Open Space effort. The Commissioners felt that it would make a great deal of sense to get an Open Space effort going, but were unsure about how to proceed at this point. They asked Jack Lewis to contact Dick Ober, a Dublin resident who heads the Monadnock Conservancy, to see what recommendations he would have about getting an effort going, and in what way we could work with the Conservancy in such an effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM. The next meeting was scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, July 25, 2007.

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Karen Bunch, Suzan Macy, Howard Thomas, Ned Whitney, Selectmen Sterling Abram and Anne Anable.

The minutes of the meeting of Thursday, April 26, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Dublin Lake: Karen Bunch reported on a number of developments regarding Dublin Lake:

1. Water Testing- Last year we decided to move from the University of New Hampshire to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services as the organization to test and report on the quality of Dublin Lake’s water. Karen attended an excellent workshop sponsored by NHDES for the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program. She reported that she learned a lot, that we would be testing three times a year, and that test results are public and the results show up almost immediately on the VLAP part of the NHDES website.
2. **Dublin Advocate** - The next Advocate will have a large article on all the groups that are involved in the lake and in keeping it healthy.

3. **Lake Level** - Karen brought to the Commission the Lake Preservation Committee’s request for support in formalizing the agreement on responsibility for determining the appropriate level of Dublin Lake at various times during the year and for taking the actions needed to implement such decisions. The Commission agreed that getting this completed was a good idea, and expressed interest in also getting a clearer understanding of who determined the level of Howe Reservoir, on what basis it was done, and how the town could influence the water level decision. During the last couple of winters the water level has significantly affected the beauty of the western gateway to the town. It would be useful to know if this winter view could be improved.

4. **Lake Host Program** - Almost everything is in place for the program. It appears that two hosts will split the weekend work, and that Len Korpi has agreed to allow his porta-potty to be used by the Lake Hosts. (It will not be available for public use.)

Mud Pond Monitoring - In Sue Yarger’s absence, Jack Lewis updated the Commission on the May 7 visit of Steve Walker who is responsible for monitoring Dublin’s LCIP properties. Steve made his inspection visit into an excellent training session for six Dublin and Peterborough residents. We walked a number of the LCIP properties, learned what a monitor should be looking for, what documentation one needs, and how to review and report on the properties. As part of the monitoring review we came across one property which had trash dumped nearby, and another where there was some potential encroachment from a neighbor. We also took a good look at a town owned property behind Life Safety which is not part of the LCIP program.

Town Forest Monitoring: Jack Lewis updated the Commission on the visit of Forester George Frame of the NHSPF, who inspected the town forest in southwest Dublin on May 22. George found no problems on the property, and said that Town Forester Swift Corwin appeared to have done a fine and comprehensive job of marking the forest for selective logging.

Cemetery Lot and Wetlands: The calls made so far to NHDES have not produced any tangible results. Jack was advised to get more responsive names from Ed Germain.

Valley Road Cell Tower: Jack Lewis reported that a meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment had taken place and that the Commission’s opposition to the location of the driveway that is on the current plan was made known to the ZBA and to the company proposing the cell tower. The ZBA meeting was adjourned until after there is a balloon test of the location.

Class VI Roads: Suzy Macy briefly described the concern that the Jaffrey Conservation Commission had about an attempt to open for development a Class VI road which goes through virtually unfragmented land in northeast Jaffrey. The Commission agreed that specific consideration of the status and future of Dublin’s Class VI roads should be a part of an Open Space Plan.

Other Items:

· Jaffrey Conservation Commission members have asked informally whether the Struga Trust property was a priority for purchase or conservation by Dublin. It could
affect the three-town conservation area being worked on in southwest Peterborough and northeast Jaffrey.

Suzy Macy initiated a conversation about alternative energy sources by mentioning the idea of erecting windmills on or near the Howe Reservoir. Howard Thomas expressed concern about the effects the current wind power technology is having on birds, and especially bats.

Jack Lewis stated that he would send the Commission members some Open Space materials prior to the Commission’s next meeting. At that time the Commission will go over the findings and recommendations of the ad hoc committee, and will start to discuss next steps for open space planning, with respect to this important long term issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on Thursday, June 28, 2007.

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Suzan Macy, Howard Thomas, Ned Whitney, Sue Yarger, Selectman Sterling Abram.

The minutes of the meeting of Thursday, March 22, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Japanese Knotweed: Ned Whitney reported that Dublin School would probably not be able to participate in a knotweed removal project, and that Road Agent Brian Barden had said that clearing knotweed by hand from the Church Street property would take all summer. Brian recommended that the Commission look into hiring someone with a sidebar brush cutter and trying that on a portion of the knotweed infestation. After some discussion of alternatives, Jack Lewis volunteered to talk with Pete Thomas about candidates for mowing.

Flood Insurance: Suzan Macy stated that there had been some interest expressed in having Dublin take the actions needed to allow its citizens to qualify for federally subsidized flood insurance. While some of the commissioners were somewhat surprised that Dublin residents might be able to qualify, given Dublin’s location and topography, they felt that the possibility was well worth pursuing if it could help residents insure against flood damage similar to that sustained by a number of Dublin residents as a result of the recent storms. Suzan agreed to look into the possibility further in cooperation with the Planning Board and Selectmen.

Lake Host Program: The NH Lakes Association has approved our $2,000 grant proposal, which will allow for weekend and holiday coverage from the start of July through Labor Day. After credit for volunteer hours, this should cost the Conservation Commission approximately $200. The paid position has been posted at local colleges and Conval, on bulletin boards here in Dublin and in the Dublin Advocate. Placing a porta potty for the Host is still being negotiated.

Mud Pond Monitoring: Sue Yarger reported that she had been in touch with Steve Walker, a Land Steward for the LCIP program, and that he would be happy to help us
learn about land and easement monitoring. Sue expects that Steve will be available to come to Dublin in the next couple of weeks, and will let the Commission know when a date has been set. Several members expressed interest in participating in the monitoring process.

Loosestrife Management: Sue Yarger had also been in touch with the state and with neighboring conservation commissions concerning the control of Purple Loosestrife. While nearby commissions are not currently active in controlling loosestrife, Officials at DES were quite supportive of our desire to take action, and agreed that using the Galerucella beetle was the best way of attacking the problem. At this point the state gives beetle vendors permission to ship to users in New Hampshire. In order for Dublin to receive beetles, it needs to send DES photos of the area infested with loosestrife, and the photos need to show soil in which the beetles can survive the winter. Beetles can be introduced to the loosestrife any time in the growing season. The beetles cost $110 per thousand and 3,000 are needed to manage a heavily infested acre of loosestrife.

Sue recommended that we send DES photographs of the section of Mud Pond that is infested when we can identify the Purple Loosestrife, and start with a specified area this year. Noticeable progress should be visible in a year, and major control in two years.

Valley Road Cell Phone Tower: A number of Commissioners visited the site of the proposed cell phone tower at 47 Valley Road. They confirmed that the conditions shown on the map of the proposed driveway leading to the tower were correct, that is, that the driveway would be less than fifty feet from wetlands for virtually all of its first five hundred feet, and that the driveway would cross a good-sized (possibly seasonal) stream. The commissioners did not feel that the driveway should be constructed so close to the good sized wetlands on the property. The following motion was made and passed unanimously by the Commission: “The Dublin Conservation Commission recommends that the driveway shown on the current plans for the cell tower on the property at 47 Valley Road should not be approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment as proposed.”

Cemetery Expansion: The town is considering expanding the cemetery to some degree onto property between the cemetery and Route 101 just west of Old Pound Road. It would like to do so in conjunction with work to reduce silt runoff into Dublin Lake just south of the Women’s Club Beach. Members of the Commission walked the property, which contains a sizable stream draining Beech Hill and a good-sized area of wetlands. The Commissioners found egg masses in the wetlands, raising the likelihood that the wetlands include vernal pools. The Commission felt that the town is faced with a complex set of issues, since reducing runoff into Cemetery Cove, expanding the cemetery and preserving a wetlands and one of the main sources of water for Dublin lake are all important goals. It recommended that the town work with the NH Department of Environmental Services and with a water resources expert to develop a solution which would address the various environmental issues posed by this property. The Commission agreed to initiate contact on this with NHDES if the Selectmen wish to proceed.

Open Space Planning: The Commission briefly discussed the work that was done at the end of last year by an ad hoc Open Space Planning Committee. It agreed to make
Open Space Planning a major topic at its June meeting. At that time the Commission will go over the findings and recommendations of the ad hoc committee, and will begin to determine the direction that it will take with respect to his important long term issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on Thursday, May 24, 2007.

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Karen Bunch, Howard Thomas, Ned Whitney, Selectmen Sterling Abram and Anne Anable.

The minutes of the meeting of Thursday, January 10, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

The 2007 budget, as passed at the Town Meeting, was reviewed, with emphasis on the availability of funds for training and education, and for at least modest funds for the control of invasives

The bulk of the meeting focused on 2007 activities and programs:

· Lake Host Program: Karen Bunch reported that she, Tom Wright, and Milt Brown met with the co “point person”, Hank Campbell and Jerry Lawler, and had come up with a plan for hiring, training and monitoring summer staff, and for the paperwork related to the program. They are submitting a $2,000 grant proposal, which will allow for weekend and holiday coverage from the start of July through Labor Day. After credit for volunteer hours, this should cost the Conservation Commission approximately $200. The point people will be posting the Lake Host position in local colleges and Conval, on bulletin boards here in Dublin and in the Dublin Advocate, deadline permitting. The deadline for expressions of interest is April 15. Training for Lake Hosts starts May 15. Karen agreed with the recommendation to add Phoenix House to the list of places where the Lake Host position will be posted.

· Japanese Knotweed: Ned Whitney reported that Dublin School would be quite willing to work with the Commission to attack Japanese knotweed at several locations, including Dublin School itself. Vanessa Davis handles community projects for the school. Ned will also contact Phoenix House to see if they would be interested in participating. They would be a great addition, since they could well have availability in August, when a second harvest of knotweed would be very helpful in containment.

· Critical Habitats: Howard Thomas recommended that one of the first focuses of land preservation efforts should be vernal pools, which are special environments which can contain unique and threatened species. Sterling Abram supported this effort, having seen first hand that a lack of focus on vernal pools can result in the permanent loss of these environments. Howard agreed to review the town’s detailed topographic maps to determine whether we need to get a better set. He also said that he would work with Mary Clark and Bruce Simpson to put together a project to begin to educate students on how to find vernal pools and to begin canvassing Dublin for their presence. Howard
said that this could easily turn into a multiyear effort of education and search, but that it
could result in the saving of rare and potentially valuable environments and species.

- Mud Pond monitoring, Loosestrife management and Howe Reservoir development: These topics were deferred until the Commission’s April meeting.

Other Business:

- Jack Lewis passed out copies of the Handbook for New Hampshire’s Municipal Conservation Commissions, which is produced by the NHACC.

- The Commission discussed a proposal made to the town by the Elm Research Institute. If the town commits to purchase and plant several medium sized disease-resistant American Elms from ERI, the town will receive a donation of a somewhat larger American Elm from ERI. Transportation and planting costs are not included in the $1,500 minimum cost of the program. The commission did not feel the program was something that it wanted to sponsor at this time.

- Commission members were notified of the New England Wild Flower Society’s spring symposium, which will take place on April 7 in Randolph Center, Vermont. The symposium will focus on maintaining healthy ecosystems. Members present received copies of the related materials.

- The Commission discussed alternatives for dealing with the possibility of a return this year of mosquitoes bearing Eastern Equine Encephalitis. EEE bearing mosquitoes were found in eastern Dublin in the summer of 2006. Howard Thomas moved that the commission not recommend spraying Dublin for EEE bearing mosquitoes given the information we currently have about the likelihood of infestation and the actions planned by surrounding towns. The motion was seconded by Ned Whitney and was passed.

The commission scheduled its next meetings for April 26, May 24 and June 28, 2007.

**Wednesday, January 10, 2007**

Attending: Jack Lewis (chair), Karen Bunch, Suzan Macy, Caleb Niemela, Howard Thomas, Ned Whitney, Sue Yarger, Selectmen Anne Anable and Joe Cavanaugh.

- The minutes of the meetings of Wednesday, October 25, 2006 and Thursday, November 30, 2006 were reviewed and approved.

The bulk of the meeting focused on 2007 activities and programs:

- Lake Host Program: Karen Bunch reported on the progress being made on restarting the Lake Host program for Dublin Lake next year. She reported that two people, Hank Campbell and Jerry Lawler, had agreed to share the duties of “point person”, responsible for hiring, training and monitoring summer staff, and for the paperwork related to the program. Joe Cavanaugh suggested that come spring the program be announced through a letter from the Selectmen and an article in the Advocate.

- Mud Pond LCIP Properties: The properties acquired by Dublin 15 years ago under the Land Conservation Investment Program need to be monitored on a regular basis,
and the results of that monitoring need to be reported to the State. The properties begin along Stanley Brook, include much of Mud Pond and continue north of Route 101 past the Mud Pond dam and toward MacDowell Reservoir. Sue Yarger volunteered to review what had been done in the past and what was needed, and to devise a plan for monitoring the properties involved.

- **Howe Reservoir:** During 2006 the Commission began to investigate the possibilities for making use of the 40+ acre property that the town owns and that the Conservation Commission is responsible for on the east side of Howe Reservoir. Caleb Niemela volunteered to coordinate the development of a proposed plan for utilizing the property, potentially using Plan NH as a source of professional advice and analysis.

- **Purple Loosestrife:** There are currently infestations of purple loosestrife at the southern end of Mud Pond and along Route 101 between Webber’s Nursery and Howe Reservoir. This non-native invasive plant crowds out other plants if left alone. It reduces biodiversity and negatively affects the ecology of the wet areas that it likes. The Commission has found that there are several potential means of controlling/eradicating this invasive plant, but each requires a campaign at the appropriate time of year. Sue Yarger volunteered to look into the economics and effectiveness of the biological and physical alternatives that are in use, and to draft a program for dealing with our infestations, possibly in conjunction with neighboring towns.

- **Japanese Knotweed:** Eighteen months ago the Commission identified about a dozen areas in town which had developed populations of Japanese knotweed, an exotic invasive plant often known of locally as bamboo. Once established this plant spreads rapidly if left alone, and choking off all other plant life. The plant can be controlled chemically (if it is not near water) or by cutting it down several times a year. Ned Whitney offered to work with schools and other organizations in the area to devise a plan to use volunteers to attack the worst knotweed infestations by cutting them down at appropriate times during the year (late May and late summer).

- **Review of Permits and Subdivisions:** With the arrival of Paul Waterman as compliance officer, the Conservation Commission no longer has to review every building permit to determine whether there is a potential water-related or other conservation issue involved. The Commission still has to review dredge and fill permits and situations where Paul determines that there might be reason for Conservation Commission involvement. Jack Lewis volunteered to work with Paul to ensure that the Commission was being brought in whenever Paul thought it appropriate, and to make sure that Paul was aware that we were quite interested in anything which could affect the wetlands, water quality, viewsheds or ecology of the town.

The Commission next discussed the recently proposed conservation-related Warrant Articles:

- **Open Space Land Acquisition:** Selectman Joe Cavanaugh stated that when the Selectmen reviewed the full array of warrant articles being proposed for the Town meeting they grew concerned about the number of articles which dealt with sizable sums of money. They determined that in their opinion this would not be a good time for them to support an Open Space Land Acquisition warrant article, which would be authorizing the possible creation of up to $800,000 more town debt. The Commission
understood the Selectmen’s concern, and agreed not to press forward with an Open Space Land Acquisition warrant article in the absence of support from the Selectmen.

· Use Change Tax Sharing: Joe Cavanaugh stated that the Selectmen were in support of this warrant article, which would allocate 50% of Use Change Tax revenues to the Commission’s conservation fund. Jack Lewis agreed to provide the Selectmen with up-to-date information on what other towns have adopted Use Change Tax Sharing.

Other Business:

· Materials on NH Charitable Foundation Grant Information sessions and NHDES Land Resource Management Workshops was distributed to Commission members.

· Beech Hill: The Commission heard that demolition and cleanup was going ahead again on Beech Hill.

· Next meeting: The commission scheduled meetings for February 14, March 22 and April 26, 2007.