

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Public Meeting, March 12th, 2007**

**Attendees:** Honey Hastings, Roger Hatt, Bruce Kantner, John Kieley, Sean Radcliffe, Dave Repak, Eric Foley. Guest: Connie Kieley

**Opening** at 7:00 PM. Roger was arriving 1/2 hour late, so Bruce assumed the chair's role.

**Minutes** of February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

**Membership:** Time needs for work and family have led Roger to not seek reappointment to the Commission. Members received this news with mixed feelings of sadness and appreciation. Roger has been a steady, enthusiastic member since 2003 and a fine chair for the past year.

After reviewing letters seeking reappointment from Lincoln and Sean and a request for full appointment from Junior Member Eric, members gave their unanimous recommendation to the Select Board that these three members be reappointed. *Roger will convey this to the Board.*

**Warrant Article 16 to address climate change:** John Kieley made a motion that the TCC endorse Warrant Article 16 of the 2006 Town Meeting "in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change...." Dave seconded this motion and members voted unanimously in favor of it. *John will contact Beverley Edwards, the Temple sponsor of this article, to convey this vote and offer TCC support in Town Meeting.*

**March 26<sup>th</sup> presentation by Northeast Wilderness Trust:** Bruce reported that Annie Faulkner, Board Member of the Wilderness Trust, will give a half hour PowerPoint presentation on the background, ecology, and funding of their 1,400 acre Wapack easement project in Rindge and New Ipswich. *John will work with Deb at the Town Office tomorrow morning to see if a notice of the Fiske Hearing on March 26th can still be placed in the Ledger by Thursday. If not, Bruce will contact Brenda Lind at the Forest Society to determine which TCC meeting date in April works best for her. Bruce will make a poster for the Fiske Hearing and email it to Dave and Deb. Connie will make a poster for the Wapack presentation and give to Dave for distribution.*

**Wapack Refuge meeting:** Bruce attended the second public meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> for the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge Conservation Plan. He delivered the TCC letter supporting this project to the Refuge Planner. The meeting was similar in content to the first one but included a draft of actions, prepared by students of the Conway School of Landscape Design, for public use, biodiversity, and partnerships. These recommendations are similar to those made of by the TCC. The next public meeting on the completed draft will probably be in December.

**Conservation easement updates:** Roger read a letter from Selectwoman Charlene Eddy in response to his letter regarding her vote against the Wolbers Easement. TCC members were disappointed that Eddy continues to refer to residents who oppose the easement but don't want to be identified. Neither Eddy nor any of these opponents expressed any reservations at the public hearing on this easement. Roger will respond to Eddy again. The TCC will bring the Wolbers Easement to the Select Board for another vote at their March 27th meeting.

**Working Forests and Climate Change:** Bruce reported on this all-day conference in Concord that was so popular that the sponsors increased their support to allow for 350 attendees. Many experts from the Northeast, California, and Washington D.C. shared their research and concerns about global warming and the necessity to reduce CO2 emissions.

**Beavers at the Chris Weston Preserve:** Eric reported on seeing beaver signs for the first time.

Meeting ended at 8:30. Next meeting is March 26<sup>th</sup> at Friendship Hall.

Minutes submitted by Bruce Kantner

*Italics above indicate tasks to be done.*

