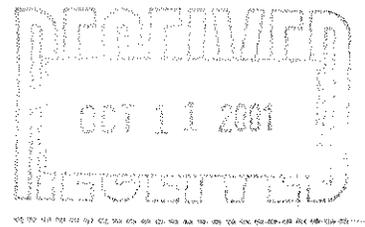


NEW BOSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Sept. 6, 2001

**Members present:** Rebecca Balke, Bob Fehsinger, Deb Keiner, Brenda Lind, Joe Nangle, and Burr Tupper

Minutes of the August meeting were read, and accepted. Joe made a motion, Burr seconded the motion, and carried.

**Treasurer's Report** - As of 9/6/01, \$ 9,849.65, and bridge account is \$1,684.73 (6 mo CD).

**Mill Pond Area -**

Public comment Meeting approximately 10 people attended this meeting which was held in the room in the town hall. The Public comments portion was chaired by Burr Tupper.

Jed Callen spoke first listing his opposition to the parking in the area. He handed out a packet of letters, and indicated that his client, William Morrissey was offering a handicapped parking area for one car just outside of the area. He would give the small space to the town if we withdraw the areas inside the area.

Randy Parker spoke about problems with ATV's, and indicated that the Forest Society does not allow any wheeled vehicles.

Margaret Watkins of the PWA was concerned about the use of bicycles and wanted that part withdrawn from the proposed Management Plan. She also repeated the offer of the PWA to help with clean up on the adjacent piece (Kincaid). She spoke later on as a employee of the Nat. Park service, and was concerned by Americans lack of exercise, and has a hard time understanding having more than one parking space. She has a concern or more than two spaces needed in ten years.

Gordon Carlstrom, Selectman, is in favor of the two parking places and wants access to the area for townspeople.

Pierre Bruno, representative, spoke about different hiking and conservation areas, and advocated public rights for public property. He also indicated that handicap parking makes two classes of people.

Robert Macheski, resident of Mill Street, spoke of being in favor of the parking inside the area as proposed. He did express concerns, but is in favor of the parking as proposed by the CC/

Gabe Bowie, resident of Mill Street, asked about comparisons to other communities, development plans, bicycles, and horses. He does not agree with the parking in the area.

**\*\*Please see attached notes made by Brenda Lind.\*\***

**PWA** After the public comments session ended, Randy Parker and Margaret Watkins stayed to talk about the repair of the section of easement abutting the Mill Pond Area. In the discussion, cc talked about a letter from Randy parker suggesting repair of the digging on the PWA and Kincaid piece. Mr. parker also suggested a press release to let people know why the repair was being done. It was reported that the land is for sale again. The discussion included the suggestion of buying and "access easement". October 6 and 7 was the date decided upon to repair the trail. (Date and raindate).

**Mill Pond (continued)** - the group discussed the 8/15 01 letter from Jed Callen. It was decided that the CC should respond to letters in a more timely manner. Deb to do letter of receipt to Jed with a cc to Selectmen. CC discussed Mr. Morrissey's proposal, and determined that the offer of one parking space was not enough, but postponed final consideration to the Oct. 4, 2001 meeting.

**Boundary Marker** - The questionable boundary marker has been moved back to its appropriate site by Bob Todd. Mr. Morrissey witnessed the moving of the boundary marker.

**Management Plan** - Cc decided that the Land Committee would meet and make recommendations to the board on the comments received tonight.

**Wetlands Conservation District** - Burr attended the 8/21 Wetlands Conserv. District public Hearing. the hearing listed definition of wetlands, talk about soil samples, and proper times for a CC to get involved. No comments given on amount of buffer. Request for a support plan. Wetlands issue will be on the town warrant in 2002.

**Middle Branch** - Bob has reported that the chipper has been repaired. the plan is to work on the area on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM. The raindate is the 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Belanger, a neighbor, has mowed the field, and Deb will do a "thank you" to him. (Sunday in August)

**CIP** - 2002 CIP. CC agreed to ask for \$35,000.00 on the CIP. Brenda to talk to Burton regarding other groups asking for funds, and whether or not we can join the forestry, etc..

**D & F Piro, Bedford Rd.** - Map 9/70, Joe and Betsey did an onsite, and reported that the owner was asked to remap and to get a soil scientist to review the land. PB to request more information.

**SPNHF** - the Society for the Protection of NH Forests is to have its annual meeting from 9/20 to 9/23 in the North Country. Burr to attend.

**Workshops** - Workshops for Wildlife and other natural resources to be held 10/20. Limited info.

**Fall Bulb Sale** - Hillsborough county Conservation commission fundraiser.

**LBC** - LBC Gen. Contractors, Map 9/24/10. Site walk on 8/27. No CC member attended. Limited info.

**Saunders Pasture** - Nute Plan. Deb to look for Middle Branch Management Plan done years ago.\*\*

**Open Space** - Rebecca checked on the status by talking to Burton. Burton would like to refer people who are interested in donating easements, etc. to a website or like source. Brenda reported on the establishment of a "Coalition Center for Land Conservation Assistance in NH". A grant has been funded.

**Cyndie** - Burr to do pictures for proposed proclamation;

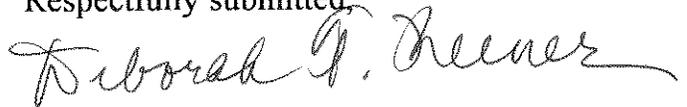
**T Shirts** - Joe to sell t-shirts for the CC on 9/8/01.

**Middle Branch Beaver Pond** - Bob asked the CC for guidance on the matter of beaver control in the pond at Middle Branch. Dam is under water and paths are now soggy or under water. A discussion had taken place recently and Ray was knowledgeable about the matter. He was not at the meeting, so we decided to wait to meet with Bob, Ray and the Management Plan in hand. Joe to contact Ray to cease and desist at this time until the board can get together.

**Gravel** - Joe suggested that there be a gravel tax for gravel taken out of town.  
Meeting adjourned 10:20PM.

Next meeting scheduled for October 4, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah T. Keiner

Sept., 2001

Public Comments on the Land and Resource Management Plan draft 8/6/01

Comments received 9/6/01 at New Boston Conservation Commission meeting

Jed Callen, representing the Morrisseys, stated client's opposition to 2-car parking lot. Presented written information including (A) letter of Callen to NBCC and NB Select Board dated 6/7/01, including attached LCIP grant application, (B) letter of NBCC to B. Reynolds dated 9/3/01, (C) Letter of Helm & Pfister to NB Select Board dated 5/25/01, (D) letter of Callen to NB Select Board dated 8/15/01, and (E) NB Select Board meeting 5/21/01 minutes. Mr. Callen commented that the proposal is unwise for practical reasons, such as trash, noise, difficulty in policing problems within parking area. Also, illegal, as this area is for conservation and was so represented to LCIP, Town, original seller. Characterized LCIP response to parking proposal as "lukewarm at best." Presented Morrissey's proposed gift of parking spot & limitations as presented in letter. Also, presented objection to bicycle use, risk to pedestrians, need to uphold original management plan which said "no wheeled vehicles," however, strollers & wheelchairs should be provided for. Finally, stated that parking is not allowed in ROW, suggested area be posted no parking and that CC address issue and let them know.

Randy Parker, abutter, spoke against bicycle use. Noted that SPNHF allows no ATVs or wheeled vehicles on SPNHF properties. Believes that they should not be allowed on Mill Pond.

Margaret Watkins, president of Piscataquog Watershed Association, spoke against bicycle use. Commented that bicycles do not have an appropriate trail here, no loop available, existing trail invites problems with bicycles on abutting property on which PWA holds easement, may cause abutting land to be posted against trespass.

Gordon Carlstrom spoke in support of parking area. Commented that we need to give people the option to use property, parking is a very small portion of property and a static use, we need to provide parking. Takes issue with handicap parking; providing one spot for handicap only is not enough.

Pierre Bruno spoke in support of providing parking. Commented that in talking with LCIP, it's clear that the intent of program includes "wanting to have people use conservation areas." Not everyone who is handicapped has a plate. We have handicapped parking as "preferred" parking, not as sole parking, usually – having just one space for handicapped would create two different classes of people, and we have checks against creating classes in NH.

Robert Macieski spoke in support of parking. Noted it's not hikers that need it, it's the quick in and out stop, parents looking for kids at the end of the day and the like. Understand stated concerns of abutters, still thinks parking is appropriate.

Gabe Bowie questioned purpose of gathering data in first part of plan. Also said we need to address horse use as well as bicycles. Expressed concurrence with Jed Callen's comments.

Margaret Watkins (speaking not as PWA rep, but as "non-resident of New Boston") spoke against parking. Said that, according to government studies, major problem for Americans is not getting enough exercise, and this is an ideal opportunity to walk from Town Hall & get exercise. Problem of increasing parking over time – if we have two spaces now, will 4 be put in 10 years from now.