

## March Meeting Notes

Present: Betsey, Brenda, Burr, Cyndie, Debby, Melissa, Joe, *Mc Schaeffrath*

Treasurer's Report: *cca* ~~Rebekah~~ was unable to attend

New Business: Betsey announced the return of Cyndie Wilson as an active member. The group welcomed her back enthusiastically.

The members presented to Brenda Lind an album commemorating her years of service on the commission and for especially enabling the town to bridge the Middle Branch of the Piscataquog River and complete the continuously walkable portion through the Railroad Trail Conservation Area.

Burr reported that a crowd of about 55 attended the "open land" event sponsored by the PWA on the newly acquired Tuthill Property on Tucker Mill Road north of Dougherty Lane. Burr praised the property. Joe mentioned that it includes many types of terrain. Burr said that a woman there from Antioch College at the invitation of the PRWA is doing a census of flora and fauna there. Several members favored the idea of conducting tours of NBC lands; Middle Branch and Saunders were cited as examples.

Concerning the Open Space Committee, Cyndie reported that she and Ken Lombard, in studying deeds and easements, failed to find a copy of an easement filed with the deed of grant for the Saunders Pasture lands. Betsey will ask Kim B. in Town Hall to pull up deeds from her records and check 2 or 3 properties for easements accompanying their deeds.

### Developments

Map 6, Lot 39. The developer's soil scientist is redoing the plan to add a second culvert and reset a wetland flag.

Lot 41-5. The commission did an on-site study for a dredge and fill application, but this crossing ties in with the driveway off Inkberry into the lot. The Planning Board has concerns about accepting this as a driveway. Cyndie urged that the commission should have the state with us every step of the way on decisions about this property. Burr will write a letter to the state outlining the commission's concerns. Betsey wondered whether the commission can state that we cannot act on this application yet because the Planning Board is not yet ready to act on it. Burr reported that the PRLAC expressed concern to DES about this development.

Saunders Pasture---Joe moved a motion permitting Betsey to buy seed for spring sewing, with mowing to take place in the fall, rather than in nesting season. The motion carried. A trail work party at the site was scheduled for 9 a.m. March 27.

Cyndie reported having unneeded wood from a home improvement project that the commission may use for signs and other structures at trail heads.

The commission discussed the governor's plan to close the state nursery as a cost-saving measure and thought it short-sighted in view of the remedial plantings needed by conservation commissions throughout the state.