

Thornton Conservation Commission

Minutes from February 4, 2008 meeting 6:30 Thornton Town Hall

Attending were Sally Davis, Steve Shaughnessy and Timmee Whitmore

1. Approved January 7th minutes without changes.
2. Sally attended a North Country Council training session on the use of the Wildlife Action Plan. Since a Fish and Game representative was present, she expressed the concern of a selectman about the accuracy of the natural resource information that the F & G provided regarding Thornton. To their knowledge, the information is correct and they would like notification of any discrepancies.
3. Mail
 - from DES Re: File # 2007-00424
Marianne Peabody, Project: bridge and pond construction
This permit application has been withdrawn

 - from DES Re: File # 080104-01 Map/Lot No. 16/1-5
Owl Street Associates have applied to develop 4 new golf courses (holes?)
-Sally sent the DES a message that we have no way to evaluate this project since we currently have no detailed information. She also inquired if, in fact, they meant 4 new *holes* instead of golf *courses*. After checking the online Planning Board minutes, Sally found information where this topic was discussed.

 - from Abenaki Environmental Services dated: January 25, 2008
They sent a package of information in response to our inquiry for Thornton's NRI
4. Steve attended the Special Outreach Session regarding the changes to The Shoreline Protection Act presented by Arlene Allen, Shoreline Protection Outreach Coordinator.
Significant changes:
 - The Pemi and the Saco have been upgraded from 3rd order rivers to 4th order rivers. Which means that the protected area is now 250 feet from the ordinary high water mark instead of the previously protected 150 feet.
 - no dwellings within 50 feet of shoreline, minimum
 - first 50 feet must be left undisturbed
 - between 50 feet and 150 feet: 50% of the area not covered by impervious surfaces shall be undisturbed
 - other restrictions apply to the area between 150 feet and 250 feet(A summary can be found at: http://www.des.state.nh.us/cspa/pdf/CSPA_StandardsSummary.pdf)
5. Approved Sally's wording for the Annual Town Report after a few changes and the inclusion of the CC's minutes from the meetings being available on the town's website

6. Sally will explore the possibility of The North Country Council presenting an informational meeting in Thornton regarding the value of a Natural Resource Inventory
7. Candy sent an email to let us know that the Selectmen would decide on our budget request (\$700) at their next meeting.
8. There was a question at the recent school board bond hearing (for the new school proposal) regarding an energy audit. The Jordan Institute was mentioned. Sally researched this non-profit organization and learned that for \$50, they analyze the energy performance of the school district building. The CC would like to pay for this service and will investigate further.
When Timmee emails the Draft minutes to Candy, she'll ask about our paying for the audit.
9. Sally is putting together a folder in our filing cabinet with all of the responses to our NRI letters of inquiry.
10. We are wondering if there are any visitors to the CC page on the Town's website. Timmee will email Beverly Chappel about tracking this information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00