

**Conservation Commission Meeting
January 20, 2009**

Minutes prepared by Jo and Gloria

Jo:

Ellen, Jean, and Bob couldn't make the meeting Tuesday so I will give the best account I can. Gloria and Ronnie please amend if I have forgotten something important.

Jean and Bob were originally going to give an account of their efforts regarding alternative energy sources for Phippsburg. This agenda has been postponed until March 17th.

The February meeting will be held in conjunction with the Land Management Committee on February 17, third Tuesday as usual, but at ****6 o'clock.***** Please note. This was a better time for the Land Management people. Anna Little reminded me at the last meeting of the LMC that the selectmen had asked that we meet with them about our wish to have an easement put on the land the town owns that is adjacent to the Land Trust piece on Pride Rock Way and that goes from there down to the land owned by the Bates Morse Mountain Preserve.

She also sent us, by way of Mike during our meeting, the notes from the Selectmen's meeting Nov. 28, 2007, that dealt with this. I have been very amiss in not following up on what they said and feel badly about it. Now it is very close to the time that anything going on the spring town meeting agenda can be done. Ronnie, Jean, Ellen and others? did make another foray into the piece, as did Levi Wark. Also, through good fortune, Laura Sewall had invited Ron Joseph, senior wildlife biologist for the Maine depart. inland fish and wildlife service to walk over the morse mnt. area and assess it. He also, on Dec. 9, took a 2-3 hour hike, following the same trail we did, on the town land and wrote me a letter (we talked earlier) on what he found. Essentially, it was about the value of the pitch pine forest there. It was too late in the season to evaluate much else. He did find fisher tracks. I passed out copies of his letter at the meeting and have copies for Jean, Ellen and Bob. Most of it concerns generalities about the need to preserve the place because of corridors,etc. but he did say that a rare butterfly, Leonard's skipper was found in the morse mnt. pitch pine forest and is more than likely in the town land also, because it's habitat is the pitch pine forest. The discoverer, Dr.Phillip deMaynadier of MDIFW would more than likely want to explore the town piece also. This is where I really dropped the ball, because it should have been done last summer, and the Selectmen's meeting notes specifically asked that we contact

MIFW to help map the assets, as well as other procedures. I took inadequate notes, and until Anna, on Tuesday, sent me the notes, had forgotten this.

We discussed meeting again with the Sportmen's group, which meets again the night before our scheduled meeting with Anna Little's group. O.K. if I ask to meet with them? Do we have anything more to say than we did the first time when Jean and I went? The only thing I think of is that the Pitch Pine Forest could not withstand ATV trails and they would have to be established away from them with CC input. Ronnie said she would try to get in touch with Mark Alexander concerning what animals he finds there and how extensive ATV and other hunting trails are. Perhaps we could get Mark and some other person from the club to explore for possible location of an ATV trail as soon as the snow leaves the ground. I do not know what such a trail requires for the vehicles. Representatives should also go along who bring a strong conservation minded perspective. Ronnie, Bill Emerson? Nancy Sferra? Nancy is very good at knowing how a trail effects certain types of terrain and she can cover long distances, that I for one, may not be able to.

We are hoping to take a winter hike into the piece when tracking is good to see what we can find about winter animal use. Gloria, Ronnie and I want to go--any others interested?

I will send a packet with the Selectmens meeting notes to everyone, and the MIFW letter to those that didn't attend.

Gloria is going to attend the wind power conference with Angus King in Georgetown. Jean has just learned that she cannot go, but we hope others can also attend.

We have received the information concerning the things needed to be done before town meeting: Our meeting with the budget committee is Monday, March 2 and it must be submitted to the Budget committee one week before on Feb. 23. I have the account of what we spent this year, and we add what we project for 2009, to help in our request for 2010. Our article for the town report is due on March 9th. Town meeting is May 5th and 6th. Articles placed in the town Warrant need to be given to the selectmen for review by Mon. March 9th. I will send the financial pages too. We can then talk about them after our meeting with the town land management comm. in Feb. and submit then on Feb. 23.

Gloria:

A few follow up notes as a result of the meeting this afternoon:

Jo, the next *Sportsmen's *Club Meeting is February 16th, Monday night. We just missed the Jan. meeting held last night.

Ronnie: My husband David, myself and Jean will be attending the Monday night , *Jan 26th 7:00 pm meeting in Georgetown. *Angus King will be talking about Wind Power.

Jean is going to call me Sunday to confirm car pooling arrangements.

Jo: I can not locate the actual write up/notice about the Wind Power talk-would you mind sending that out again? Thank You

Before leaving the meeting this afternoon, I did not get an opportunity to mention that I had send a letter to the *Bremen Land Conservation Committee*, asking them for a copy of the pamphlet we were interested in getting a copy of. To date, I have not received a response from them. but will keep you posted.