

Conservation Land Review Committee
July 30, 2008

Attended: Gary Langenbach, Chairman, Mark Guidoboni, Pine duBois, Sue Chamberlain

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. once the quorum was present.
Minutes of the June 25 meeting were approved as corrected. (3-0-1)

Following the outline established by the committee at the July 25 meeting, the following issues were discussed:

Recreation:

Smelt Pond –Gary brought the “Limnological Investigation of Smelt Pond and its Watershed” prepared for the Pond Study Committee of the Kingston Conservation Commission in December 1995, which gave an overall assessment of the water quality of Smelt Pond.

Overall: the committee would like to address recreation on Smelt Pond which would include how it would be used for beach access, boating, and camping.

Camping: Group camping only would be permitted such as Boy Scouts. Parameters need to be established for the areas to be used by campers and for what uses are permitted.

Beach: Beach access could be tied to “approved/permited group camping only” with proper supervision and compliance with state standards. Boats need to be clean before using the pond and launched in designated areas only.

Trails: Other recreational areas would be passive recreation only. Walking, mountain biking, hunting(?), fishing, etc. would be encouraged. A trail map should be made available.

Natural Habitat:

Rare Species: Gary brought “The BioMap and Living Waters report of Core Habitats in Kingston” produced by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program et al. Blanding’s Turtle, Box Turtle, Plymouth Gentian, New England Boneset, and White Cedar were some of the important species needing protection.

Forests: Pine suggested that we apply for a UMass Coverts Forest Stewardship Grant to provide a basic inventory and management plan for Camp Nekon.

Ponds and Vernal Pools: The committee would like to do an assessment of all the water bodies in Camp Nekon for basic water quality to include description of current conditions and species inventory. The fish survey might be done by Steve Hurley once he has completed a survey of Silver Lake for JRWA. There should be buffers of at least 100 feet around vernal pools and potential vernal pools. All Conservation Commission

regulations and bylaws should apply. Where threatened, imperiled or endangered species are found, more stringent protection should be recommended.

Access and Control:

No ATVs allowed. This is in compliance with town regulations that say no town owned land or parks will be used by motorized vehicles of any type (**anyone have the exact wording??**). Pine will look into the cost of signage to curtail vehicles and explain fines for offenses. Work with Environmental Police.

Maps

Sue will talk to Karen Grey at Wildlands Trust about accessing Conservation Mapper which outlines all of the resources of Camp Nekon. The actual lot plans numbers for Camp Nekon will have to be given to the technician to get all of Camp Nekon into the program. Sue will research.

The new 40R development (Thorndike Place) did a flyover of the entire area planned for development as well as surrounding areas like Camp Nekon. There are two copies and it would be good for the committee to get a copy.

Fire Tower: Include the fire tower in the plan and the area. Check the lease, which should be in the Selectmen's office.

Other discussion:

Pine recommended that the plan for Camp Nekon begin with a preamble that covers its positive recreation potential, its natural qualities (ponds, habitats, species of special concern), its management team (Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Recreation). This would be a "big picture" statement that would encourage its use while recognizing the need to protect this natural resource from the many problems it faces: pressure from surrounding development, motor vehicle use over sensitive habitat, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sue Chamberlain