**Conservation Commission Meeting**

**September 10, 2012**

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**Meeting Opened**: 07:00 pm

**Members Present**: Sue Foote, Ivan Eaton Sr, Helen Lalime, Dick Dodge, Mike Colin, Jesse Fowler and Judie Walker.

Special Guests: Henry Boyd of Millennium Engineering, Randy Orvis of Geometres Blue Hills, LLC and Miles Cook

Accept the minutes of 08/27/2012

*Motion: Mike Colin*

*Ivan Eaton, Sr. seconded*

*Passed unanimously*

**Dredge and fill applications/permits**:

* Miles Cook came to the Conservation Commission meeting on 09-10-2012 and thoroughly discussed the proposed development on Weare Road site tax map 4 -1. Realizing there is a wetland impact, general concerns of the board members is that there is an impact to wetland relatively negligible for the trade of development in utilization of the corner lot. The proposed mitigation for the impact by either Conservation Commission easement or fee title transfer a substantial portion of the parcel more than out way the development of the impacted area. The Conservation Commission made a motion to accept the draft plans. The Conservation Commission is in favor of the project.

Motion: Sue Foote, Chair

Second: Dick Dodge

**Other**:

* Helen Lalime after reading the minutes from August 27, 2012 was inquiring about the Frank Beckman’s Island on the Seabrook Marsh. It read in the minutes that he was looking to deed it over to the Conservation Commission. Frank Beckman is working with lawyers from DTC. Attorney Charles Tucker of DTC, emailed Judie and informs that he has spoken to Frank Beckman and Betsy McNaughton of Fish and Game, and the following maybe the solution to everyone’s issues:

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* + Frank Beckman (and his daughters) wants to see the property in conservation permanently, and do not require any compensation but, since it has been in the family since the 1600’s want to keep an interest.
  + Fish and Game wants to see it in conservation, but has not the manpower to police it on an ongoing basis.
  + The Town CC wants to see it in conservation.
  + Proposed solution:  Beckman keeps the fee, for the time being, grants a conservation easement to the Town of Seabrook (by and through its CC). Beckman gives the Town, by and through its CC, the right of first refusal to the fee, should the Beckman heirs ever want to sell it, with a similar right to Fish and Game if the Town does not want to buy it.   The market value of the fee will be relatively low, since the conservation easement essentially would prohibit most uses that one could make money from.
* The Conservation Commission asked Judie to reply to Attorney Charles Tucker’s email with this reply; Thank you for their proposal for a conservation easement, but at this point in time we don’t have the resources of any enforcement of a conservation easement should approve necessary. However should they choose to fee title donate to the Town with conduct in the deed that it be forever the benefit of Wildlife and Conservation use only. We would be honored to erect signage in the Beckman’s name and a brief history of the island dating back to the 1600’s.
* Helen Lalime spoke briefly about the Rail Trail. She is meeting with Iron Horse Preservation Society (IHPS). They are a not-for-profit educational and historical organization founded for the preservation and rehabilitation of our railroad heritage. The primary objective of our organization is to convert abandoned Railroad tracks into usable recreational trails for communities around the nation at no cost. Community donation of railroad track to Iron Horse operations generates the funding necessary to develop rail to trail projects. Unfortunately the State of N.H. does not want to let the steel on the Seabrook Rail Trail to go. They would like to use the steel on other working railroads. The State is however, letting Derry and Nashua’s steel be given to Iron Horse Preservation Society.

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Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm

Next Meeting: August 27, 2012

Respectfully submitted: Judie Walker, Clerk