

Conservation Commission

Minutes

August 7, 2006

Attendees:, Kate Brooks, David Shinnlinger, Kris Burnett, Len Reitsma

Notice of Violation:

Served to Glen and Judy McKinstry. Letter of Deficiency copy sent to CCC. Rivers Edge Campground ATV Park, numerous violations related to culverts installed without permit, and erosion causing pollution of Indian River and tributaries. By August 24, restoration plan must be filed with DES by certified wetland scientist. After the fact, application to retain culvert and bridge: By September 24, submit alteration of terrain permit application prepared by licensed engineer.

Jay has been looking into question of who enforces wetland laws and how they are related to the Lake (DES overworked, police reluctant, Fish & Game?)

Dave thinks enforcement is a bigger issue- what if DES doesn't follow these. Letter says they may inspect again/ Len and Kris think letter is firm. This may be on radar because ATV parks are known for erosion problems? It is likely neighbors keeping an eye on it.

Annual Lecture:

Scheduled for Friday August 11 at 7:30 at the meeting house.

No live bird scheduled to be there, but Len will contact Dan Lambert about possibility of VINS bird. Kate produced poster.

Painting worth \$250 donated (to be raffled off or to be used as Door Prize). People will be asked to make donation to conservation fund to get name in the drawing for door prize. Len can get projector and screen if David Merker doesn't have (Len leaves August 13). Announcement went to *Valley News* and the *Spectator*.

Carbon Coalition:

Invitation through fall to tap into list of speakers about local impacts and solutions to global warming. What role should CCC play? More than one talk per year? Organize something in September at Meeting House. Dave has the invitation but wonders whether such a program would be seen as political. Kris thinks it's a good thing for CCC to do. Dave will try to arrange to-do at CMS.

Nature Hut:

- Dave- Master Plan. John Bergeron asks if CCC would like to see certain areas protected and/or recommendations for zoning plans.
- Should look at watershed NRI (MWCC doc) 1990 Wetlands of Canaan and compare with tax maps to show recommended areas to be considered for protection to retain as much of Canaan's current ecological values as possible. Would help town prioritize areas for protection. Could recommend more stringent requirements in sensitive areas or propose conservation districts.

Misc Business:

- Len will miss the next 4 meetings (at least). Possibly more.
- Kris reports that the Capital Improvement committee is looking to plan for big capital items and suggests that maybe CCC should aim to buy some critical wetland areas. We could aim at tax default properties that are ecologically sensitive.
- CIP Group- Someone needs to make appointment (Dave will follow-up) with Dana to make a proposal for 5-year plan. Perhaps to protect areas around reservoir. DES grants available to help with purchase of critical areas around water resources.
- John Bergeron stopped by and showed the draft master Plan. Natural Resources and Recreation section. Needs input within next month. MP should be generic, not specific.
- Any lands around Lake would be worth conserving/buying.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2006