

CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Approved
Public Hearing Minutes on
Conservation of the Fogg Hill Property**

Tuesday, March 26, 2013

Present from CH Conservation Commission: Bruce Bond, Chairman, Randy Mattson, Karin Karagozian, Gwen Bronson, Barbara Picard

Conservation commissioners absent with notice: JoAnn Wood; Maureen Criasia

Present from CH Select Board: Harry Viens; David Hughes

Present from Lakes Region Conservation Trust: Don Berry

Others Present: Rick Van de Poll from Ecosystem Management Consultants; Residents David Reilly, Don Thibeault, Lee Mattson, Shirley Splaine, Brad Foster

Handout: Outlines importance of conserving the Fogg Hill Property
(copy of handout attached to minutes in CHCC files)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Randy Mattson, Moderator for the public hearing, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.:

PURPOSE

In accordance with RSA 36-A:5 (II), the Center Harbor Conservation Commission is holding this Public Hearing to discuss commitment of conservation fund monies for purchase of a conservation easement on a 192 acre parcel of land on Fogg Hill Road in West Center Harbor.

Commissioners introduced.

Randy Mattson continued: The Conservation Commission is collaborating with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust on this project. The Trust intends to purchase the property to conserve the land in perpetuity as a wildlife preserve with public access. The Town of Center Harbor Conservation Commission would hold a conservation easement guaranteeing that the LRCT would hold the land for conservation purposes forever.

In recent months, the Conservation Commission has discussed this project and voted unanimously in favor of committing funds. In addition, the CH Board of Selectmen has also voted unanimously to support the project and has formally approved the disbursement of the monies from the Conservation Fund for purchase of the easement.

POWER POINT PRESENTATION

Power Point Presentation given by Don Berry from 7:03-7:15 p.m.
(copy of presentation attached to minutes in CHCC files)

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Q: Has trailhead been determined?

Don Berry: Access will probably be right off cul-de-sac but has not determined officially. Access to the cul-de-sac is off a private road, Fogg Hill Rd.

Rick Van de Poll: comment: This is the largest un-fragmented spot in the town; it captures one of the top conservation priorities of the town. The parcel represents one hundred ninety two of nine hundred total acres of unprotected land in CH.

David Reilly: Eight to nine years ago, the Lake Winona Improvement Association purchased a 20 acre parcel on Winona Rd in Center Harbor which abuts the Fogg Hill parcel. Also, the Association purchased 53 acres on other side of Lake Winona on the New Hampton side for the same purpose approximately 15 years prior to that. This was beneficial.

Q, Shirley Splaine: Will hunting be allowed?

Don Berry: This has not been decided yet.

Shirley Splaine: If the area is going to be for hiking, it would be best not to have people with guns. Shirley would be totally against guns

Q: Will logging be done on the property?

Don Berry: There are no plans to do logging to raise funds.

Q: How is fundraising going?

Don Berry: Information regarding fundraising will be made public soon.

Q: What is the next step in the process for fundraising?

A: Getting fundraising letters in the mail

Randy Mattson reiterated that the Selectmen have given their unanimous support for setting aside this land into conservation

Randy Mattson moved to ratify the Conservation Commission's previous vote to support the purchase of the easement with \$40,000 from the Conservation Fund.

Bruce Bond seconded the motion

Vote was unanimous in favor.

Public Hearing adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Picard, for the Center Harbor Conservation Commission