

**South Berwick Conservation Commission
January 28, 2010, Meeting Minutes**

Present: Pat Robinson, John Stirling, Dolores Leonard, John Klossner, Maya Bogh

Next Meeting: February 24, 2010

Approval of 12/16 Minutes: John S. made motion to approve, Dolores seconded. Approved.

Ongoing Business

Town Forest, Dave Parker reported on harvest progress: Cutting has begun and will be done by end of February. Parker explained blazing practices and how they relate to which trees will be cut. Noted 1) how some cases small trees will never reach commercial value and must be cut to access blazed trees; 2) skid trails will turn into walking paths, so town may need additional signage; and 3) a goal of cyclical harvest, every 10 to 20 years, is feasible depending on objectives for the resource. Recommended that the conservation commission 1) look at habitat corridors that may be opened up and how they may be maintained 2) consider seeding disturbed soils with cover like winter rye; and 3) advocate for money to be set aside from harvest to address goals like these.

Actions: Commission to develop recommendations for town to address—to potentially include commission’s role of conservation in Town Forest management, redoing trail signs, blocking harvest paths with brush, turning skid loop along river into a hiking trail, installation of notebook & inbox to demonstrates use to town, and using the town forest as an educational site. Hike planned with Dave April 11. John K. to talk to town chair; Pat to talk to town manager; John K. to talk to Dave Burke. Maya to type up suggestions. Pat to talk to Robin Kerr about best recommendations and lists of granters.

Strategic Planning (Dolores): Ran out of time for discussion about strategic planning. Group agreed on need to make time for this and to change process for running meetings. Will look at incorporating an “action agenda” in which people check in with taskers but do not need substantive discussion, and a “consent agenda” for items that require discussion. Commission members will alternate running meetings. John S. nominated Dolores to run next meeting.

Meeting time: Pat asked that we change commission meetings to the fourth Wednesday owf the month. Dolores moved to approve, John seconded.

Mt A Steering committee representative (Pat): Sharon Brassard has tentatively volunteered to be proxy representative for the Conservation Commission on the committee.

