

## ACQUIRED BY WIC THROUGH A FORMAL, WRITTEN “RIGHT TO KNOW” REQUEST

The WCC meeting was called to order at 7:10 Pm on May 18, 2006. Present were, Gus Ruth, Irene Ruth, Deb Gode, Mim Johnson, and Dann Carr.

Art Scott was a guest.

Irene and Mim were voted in as regular members for this meeting.

Bonnie Leveille and John Hann arrived late.

Gus asked which members are now receiving the Conservation Newsletter. Mim, Art and Dann would like to be added to the list.

There was discussion about land to be bought.

A piece of property on Warwick road is being offered to the WCC for purchase.

John Hann asks if the folks will donate the land or accept a lesser amount? He will investigate.

Wayne Young has notified the commission that there was some confusion about whether the recent cut was done entirely on town forest . He told us that about 20 % of the wood cut was from other town property. The Commission voted to deposit the amount of 20% of the total payment for the timber into the general fund.

The lot beside the Pisgah diner is still for sale. The commission discussed the pros and cons of purchasing this property. John Hann asks, Is it a buildable lot? There was discussion concerning the safety and stability of the shoreline. Possibly there may need to be a variance before any building can be erected on the property. John Hann comments that variances are hard to get.

The consensus of the commission is that land on the river should be a target for conservation.

There was discussion about a land trade with the Winchester Speedpark if they obtain the land across route 10 from the Gardiner Mountain property. Route 10 is an important access point for a trail system going east toward Richmond.

There was discussion about buying wetlands around and in wellhead protection areas.

There was also discussion about the Bart pond- Pauchaug brook, Pulpit Falls areas as areas that should all be preserved. John will investigate to find the owner of the Pulpit Falls property.

**WIC Notes:** On May 3, 2006 WIC exposed the wrongful cutting of town timber under the authority of Gus Ruth as chairman of the Conservation Commission.

### WIC Asks:

Where is a written statement from the forester saying only 20% was wrongfully cut? Who on the Conservation Commission received this report and conveyed it to the board?

Why didn't Ruth report his error to the Board of Selectmen?

Does depositing money in the general fund release Ruth from accountability for making a decision to cut town timber, a decision which can be made lawfully only in a public meeting by the Board of Selectmen?

There was discussion by all present about consideration of about 80 acres south of Pisgah and on the border of Winchester and Hinsdale as a possible easement on property next to Pisgah. The vote was yes, to pursue it.

Gus makes a motion to reimburse the town for office supplies. The WCC will give the town \$150 out of our budget which will more than cover the supplies and telephone service we used this fiscal year.

Dann describes a piece of property consisting of 2 acres on the river in Ashuelot, with Quonset hut. The land is too expensive now but keep we will keep an eye on it.

Paul will contact Verizon and Public Service of New Hampshire about getting some poles moved on the Ashuelot River canoe and kayak launching area.

SWRP has been contacted about an oil tank buried adjacent to one of the WCC managed properties.

Ken B and Ken Cole will help Dan Carr to work on proposed trails, also Richard, a friend of Dan's.

Gus is working with an Eagle scout who has agreed to design and build a bridge for a trail on the Gardiner Mountain property.

Mim would like to be a regular member and the WCC will ask the selectboard to approve her as such.

Art Scott has agreed to be an alternate.

Respectfully submitted,  
Irene Ruth