

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 14, 2010

7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Mike Decubellis, Andy Roeper, Pauline Ball and Sharon Slater

GUEST: Derek Serach of Southern NH Regional Planning Commission (SNHRPC)

NEW BUSINESS:

Piscataquoq Land Conservation Plan

Chairman Decubellis introduced Derek Serach of SNHRPC who came to discuss the current GIS Co-Occurrence mapping that the group has been putting together.

Mr. Serach distributed copies of the co-occurrence model as well as the revised conservation plan for the Piscataquoq Watershed Plan. He said that he has been visiting many of the towns in the Watershed to discuss the plan and get their feedback through a scoring system which will assist the SNHRPC in this process. The scoring sheet is based on 100 with 9 different categories that were chosen by natural resource professionals. He said that the GIS co-occurrence model incorporates different important natural resources throughout the watershed and comprises them into one overlay. This will enable them to highlight and pinpoint conservation areas high in natural resource value. Mr. Serach pointed out and explained the different elements of the mapping process:

Riparian Resource Areas.....300 ft. corridor for streams, named lakes and ponds.....best wildlife quality

Aquifers.....transmissivity rating.....lowest for best recharge/highest for best water resource (wells)

Ecologically Important Habitats..... includes cliffs, ridges and talus, floodplain forest, pine barrens, lowland spruce-fir, northern hardwood conifers

Wildlife Action Plan.....Tier 1....top 10% focused on 16 wildlife habitats in NH; Tier 2.....top 25%; Tier 3.....considered the supporting landscapes; as well as habitat not ranked

Unfragmented Forest Blocks.....areas based on size with larger areas given a higher rank because they may contain higher natural resource value and able to support diverse natural communities

Wetlands.....will be identified using Natural Wetland Inventory information plus Hydric Soils A and B

Critical Soils.....doesn't change very often.....includes prime farmland and highly erodible soils which are important

Floodplains.....based on FEMA data for Hillsborough and Merrimack counties.

High Quality Waters.....trying to expand this section....data provided by the USGS Sparrow model.....catchment areas or minor sub watersheds will be targeted based on surrounding land use percentages and population density.

At this time, Mr. Serach asked for any questions or comments. M. Decubellis noticed that upland streams were not mentioned. Mr. Serach said that they were working on some data that shows smaller watershed areas that are important for fish spawning. M. Decubellis agreed that much more GPS documentation of small streams could be done by the commission.

Mr. Serach also mentioned that a Cost-Surface Analysis developed by the NH Audubon Society and Fish & Game would help in making decisions on target areas and connecting areas that have a high resource value and are more functional for wildlife travel. After a little more discussion, Mr. Serach said that on completion of this project, they will produce a map for each town within the Watershed.

OLD BUSINESS:

(1) Purgatory Lower Falls; discuss signage status

Bob Nields was not present for this meeting so the discussion on the status of the signage for the parking lot was continued until the February meeting.

(2) Natural Resources Inventory books

Chairman Decubellis presented two new NRI books that were recently purchased at a cost of \$195.00.

The Commission agreed that both books will be given to the library so that they will be available to residents who are interested in the subject.

Forestry permits

Chairman Decubellis received the following notifications of timber harvests:

Joel Mazerall; Lot 226-001

Wayne Colsia; Lot 246-006

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As of December 2009, the balance of the account is \$45,646.20 with \$11.10 in interest. The balance also includes \$3,700 from funds received through Current Use Land Tax for land being taken out of Current Use status.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 11th at 7:30 p.m.2010 in Citizens Hall.

Pauline Ball