



Conservation Commission  
April 16, 2013

**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
*Conservation Commission*

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**Minutes**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Tuesday April 16, 2013**  
**7:00pm**

**Present:** ..... **Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman** .....  
                  **Jordan Bailey, Member**  
                  **Brendan Denehy, Selectboard Representative**  
**Absent:** **Jay Chrystal, Vice-Chairman, Evangelos (Evan) Gerekos, Member, Therry Neilsen-**  
**Steinhardt, Alternate, and Eric DiVirgilio, Alternate.**

**This meeting will be held in the Work room at the Town Hall.**

**Buddy** said in attendance for tonight's meeting is Travis Guthrie an Eagle Scout working on his merit badge for communication he is here with his Mother Tammy Guthrie to observe the meeting. Donna Marsh (Brookline Resident) also attended the meeting

**Ian McSweeney, Russell Farm and Forest Conservation Foundation**

**Buddy** introduced Ian McSweeney to the Board. **Buddy** said he met Ian at the Saving Special Places Conference on April 6, 2013. **Buddy** told Ian that the Conservation Commission receives 100% of the Land Use Change Tax and at one time they had close to one Million Dollars in the Conservation Fund. They are now down to about \$300,000. The Conservation Commission has purchased about 1,400 acres of land on their own dime.

**Ian** said he works for The Russell Farm and Foundation Conservation Foundation. The Russell's live in New Boston. Years ago they sold their business and decided to help others reach a common goal of conservation. **Ian** said he started working for the Russell's in 2005. The foundation works with the land owner, Boards, Trusts, Towns, etc. to help find funding if needed. In the beginning the Foundation used their own money to conserve land now they find a lot of organizations that provide funding, grants, trusts, easements, etc. They started working around the Pisquaticwa River watershed area. The southernmost area the Foundation has worked is Mont Vernon. Their primary interest is active land or working farm forest land. Working mostly in Hillsborough County but they have done some work in Merrimack and Cheshire County. They have also been contact by land owners that are looking to conserve their own land and the foundation has found organizations, easements or suggestions as to how people can go about conserving their own property for future years. **Ian** said he is in contact with organizations that are willing to help people preserve the land whether it is through an easement or donating it to a municipality or organization that will forever conserve the land. **Ian** said he can help an organization or town board with funding options or another organization that is willing to help preserve a piece of land. There are organizations that Ian has worked with the will grant funding, bonds, grants, easements, etc. **Jordan** asked what the first step would

be to go forward with working with Ian may be. Do you want the list of properties that the Conservation Commission has been talking about or start with one lot at a time. **Ian** said either works we can start with a piece of property where he can look into what kind of funding or options would be available. **Ian** said the foundation is here to help the process go forward all the services provided by the foundation are free of charge. They have raised over six million dollars in grants to conserve well over 5,000 acres.

**Brendan** asked if they had worked in Mason. **Ian** said yes he helped the town of Mason acquire the quarry. **Buddy** asked if that is located off of Sand Pit Road. **Ian** said yes. **Mason** was concerned with the liability of owning the quarry and wanted to learn what some options were. The Forest Society said they would hold an easement for that property and that would take the liability issues for the town. The quarry is a beautiful area with a lot of history. **Donna Marsh** said conservation is very special to her. When she first moved to town she had joined the Conservation Commission. Brookline is a beautiful town and the Conservation Commission has done a great job over the years. **Brendan** you buy and preserve land but on the other hand you have to generate that extra funding.

**Buddy invited Ian McSweeney with the Russell Foundation to join the non-public session.**

**Non-Public Session**

**Buddy made a motion to go into non-public session to discuss possible land purchases under RSA 91-A: 3, II (d). Jordan seconded. Buddy voted yes. Jordan voted yes, and Brendan Votes yes.**

**Brendan made a motion to come out of non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) and seal the minutes. Jordan seconded. Buddy voted yes. Jordan voted yes, and Brendan Votes yes.**

**Brendan made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Jordan Seconded. Vote yes 3-0.**

**Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman,** 

**Jordan Bailey, Member,** 

**Brendan Denehy, Selectboard Representative,** 

**Submitted by Kristen Austin**

**Next meeting will be held on May 14, 2013.**