

**Meeting Minutes**

Bolton Conservation Commission, 15 August 2005, Smilie School

Present: Lars Botzjorns, Tom Longstreth, Kristian Omland, Amy Cantor

Minutes recorded by Kristian Omland

1) Agenda

- Preston Pond update
- Visit with Tyler Miller

2) Preston Pond update

- Pieter van Loon, forester for Vermont Land Trust (VLT), had informed us via email that use of the beaver baffles is not permitted in the Ecological Protection Zone.
- Before 29 July, members of the Conservation Commission had reviewed the easement and agreed that, within the Ecological Protection Zone, ecological concerns take precedence over recreational concerns.
- We visited the site with Pieter 29 July.
- Upon surveying the situation, we deemed raising the level of the trail above the water level to be prohibitively expensive.
- The best option appears to be relocating the trail higher to the west, ideally entirely on town land (Preston Pond Parcel).
- Next trail work day + "Open Trails Day" 27 August
  - Kristian to print maps
  - Tom to mow Stage Rd access

3) Tyler Miller

- Tyler Miller, who we have contracted to assist us in prioritizing our next project, attended the Conservation Commission meeting.
- Tyler is a graduate student at Antioch New England Graduate School.
- Tyler gave us some personal and academic background: he lives in Vermont and has been involved in a planning process for southern New Hampshire around the I-93 corridor.
- We agreed in broad terms to what Tyler will do, which was described in his proposal.

- ❑ Kristian to draft letter of agreement, and formalize it through Deb.
- ❑ Kristian also to obtain copy of zoning ordinance and other relevant documents for Tyler; also needed contact information.
- We spent the remainder of the meeting informally brainstorming with Tyler about what we, as members of the Conservation Commission, would like to work on, and also what he should bear in mind as he designs his project.
- We agreed to a scheme of contacting and interviewing Select Board members and Conservation Commissioners first, then Smilie School administrators and teachers, and then the general public with interview/ survey questions evolving through the process.
- Tyler will aim to have at least a preliminary report for Town Meeting, whether he can present it or one of us has to present it for him.

4) Next meeting 10 October

- Preliminary agenda
  - ▶ Action items from August meeting