Cons Comm *from page 18*

Emery Road: Tina (not present)

Valley Road and Sam Hill: Jerry has had a conversation with Stacey Viandier regarding easements in this area.

We removed Bog Pond from the list of Projects as this is not yet being worked on.

Bradley Lake Project

Rules for public water supply – Bob

See above for decision to combine this with the meeting on conservation easements.

Bob has called the chair of the Andover Village District and keeps members involved. It is very important that this project be done with the Andover Village District.

The proposed end products from this project are:

- The combined meeting described above
- A list of DES rules regarding the protection of public water supplies that can be made available to all users of Bradley Lake as both a flyer for landowners and a poster at Bradley Lake

Tax Benefit Change

Mary Anne had e-mailed a copy of an article on the changes to federal law regarding tax benefits for conservation easements. The increased tax changes that expired in December 2007 have now been extended to December 2009. Basically, the tax benefit works as follows:

- The difference between the value of the land pre- and post-easement is calculated by a certified easement appraiser.
- This amount is allowed as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes.
- The amount deducted each year cannot exceed 50% of the individual's adjusted gross income (up from 30%) and can be used as a deduction for up to five years (up from three years) or until the full amount has been deducted whichever occurs first.

New State Laws

SB 381 will require a warrant article in order for Town conservation funds to be given to a land trust organization. Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) is getting information and model language.

HB 1579 –Establishes a permanent funding stream for LCHIP

Review of Work Plan Items

August Informational Meeting on Conservation Easements – Bob, Nan, Sandra, Ed

The assignments for each member and the content of the meeting were reviewed with the following decided:

Format and content of meeting – The general session will include:

- what is an easement
- what are the tax benefits
- what are the costs
- how does Andover fit into the larger regional picture and the Quabbin to Cardigan initiative.

At the two break-out sessions Mary Anne and Jerry will talk about their personal experiences with easements. There will be maps of current Andover easements and the Commission co-occurrence maps, time for questions, and an explanation of how the Andover Conservation Commission can help with easement costs.

Personal invitations – Personal invitations will be sent to landowners who have indicated an interest in conservation easements and landowners whose land has many of the five criteria developed by the Commission to prioritize land for potential easements:

- protection of drinking water supply
- agricultural land
- working forest land
- land that is important to wildlife
- special scenic places

A tentative list of individuals who will receive a personal invitation was made. Sandra is in charge of the personal invitations.

Presenters – Beth McGuinn from the Ausbon Sargent Land Trust and Brian Hotz from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire forests have agreed to be the presenters.

Date – The date is Wednesday, August 27, from 6:30 to 8:30.

Refreshments – Nan is in charge of refreshments.

Location – Sandra is in charge of location. Bob will check to see if the location has been secured.

Publicity – Nan will write an article for the August *Beacon* and the notice for cable TV. Bob made a motion to do a quarter page ad in the *Beacon* paid for with Commission funds. The motion was seconded by Nan. The vote to proceed was unanimous. Nan will also write the ad for the *Beacon* and will convert the ad into posters that will be placed at Jake's, the bank, the two post offices, the dump, and the Town Offices.

Mary Anne will prepare a draft agenda and will send this to Nan for inclusion in the publicity.

Natural Resources Inventory – Tina

No one has given comments. Mary Anne will call Tina and get a status.

Master Plan Update – Mary Anne and Bob

At the last Master Plan meeting, Paul [Currier] conducted a review of each guiding principle. Members then went through the survey and vision statements and identified how each survey answer and statements from the visioning session supported the guiding principles – basically identifying the support documentation for each guiding principle.

Paul had placed a request in the *Beacon* for town residents to submit their ideas on what rural character means to them. Paul also requested input on work force housing. MP members also reviewed the criteria for facilitator for the master plan process.

It was noted that the Town will make some funds available for a facilitator. Commission members were asked to consider if they would also vote to use

See Cons Comm *on page 20*

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