

June 8, 2010

**Stewardship Discussion Notes
New Preston Village Open Space
At 108 New Milford Turnpike**

Present: Conservation Chairman Susan Payne, Phil Dutton, Linda Frank, Kelly Boling.
Sean Hayden – Northwest Conservation Commission.
Nick Solley – Selectman.
Members of the Public – see sign-in sheet attached to copy filed with Town Clerk.

Call to Order:

Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m. thanking approximately 30 members of the public for attending; thanking Betty Sutter for making the New Preston Congregational Church available; and introducing Sean Hayden of the NW Conservation Commission. Sean projected two aerial maps of the 31-acre property. The purchase of the property known as 108 New Milford Turnpike or the Moore Property, was finalized in February 2010 with Open Space Funds in the amount of \$500,000 (that had been approved at a Town Meeting in April 2009.) The purpose of this evening's discussion was to hear from members of the community what they would like to see happen, or not, to this parcel of land. Linda Frank provided a handout highlighting the property. Sean Hayden explained that in 2008 he had performed a baseline environmental assessment that generated a report of what exists on the property including open wetlands, forested wetlands, prime farmland and forest patches. Betsy Corrigan, field biologist, will inventory what is on the property as far as invasive plants, etc.

Discussion from floor:

Points made by attendees:

- * Maintaining property's rural character.
- * No signage.
- * Parking area should be defined (possibly graveled) and motor access into the property past this point prohibited (to prevent ATV use, automobiles getting stuck in wet areas, dumping, etc.).
- * Grading and seeding of areas where environmental clean up took place.
- * Creating/Clearing/mowing – interpretive trail, walking trails, meadowlands for birds, butterflies, etc. and subsequent maintenance.
- * Building of boardwalks in wetland areas.
- * "Opening" of wetland (pond) for possible skating.
- * Consideration of beaver control.
- * Buffers for abutting property owners if trails are created.
- * Public access easement off Flirtation Ave. – trail connecting New Preston Village to Lake Waramaug.

- * Town budgetary considerations – planning financially re: short-term vs. long-term ideas, goals.
- * Creation of sub-committee and utilization of volunteers, scouts, students to accomplish some of the suggested work.
- * Naming of the property to include “Moore Family”.

Susan encouraged those present to continue voicing ideas, concerns, etc. by contacting the Conservation Commission or attending any of their meetings.

The discussion ended at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Greene
For the Conservation Commission