**Conservation Commission Meeting**

**November 9, 2015**

**Meeting Opened**: 6:00 pm

**Members Present**: Sue Foote, AL Mueller, Francis Chase, Jim Sanborn, Helen Lalime and Judie Walker.

*Approval of minutes from September 14, 2015*

*Motion: Helen Lalime*

 *Al Mueller seconded*

 *Passed unanimously*

**Shipwreck**:

* November 2, 2015 Sue Foote and Al Mueller met with the Historical Society and Marine Archaeologist, Dr. Stefan Claesson and Dr. Richard Boisvert, NH State Archaeologist to examine debris from the ship wreckage that washed ashore at the beach. Dr. Claeson believes the shipwreck washed up on shore by a combination of effects from nearby hurricanes, offshore topographic shifts, a nor’ Easter and/or a king tide. The first people to learn about the debris were Evelyn Fowler and Dale Beckman who contacted Sue Foote, Conservation Chair who traveled immediately to the beach. With help from Al Mueller and Paul Himmer they moved the pieces of debris away from the threat of high tide to await further investigation. Upon inspection Dr.Boisvert, Sue Foote and Dr. Claesson estimated that the debris they examined came from a ship that sailed sometime between the 1850s and 1900s. Boisvert and Claesson would like to send samples of the debris to Cornell University where the samples could be analyzed using dendrochronology techniques.

The Department of Public Works assisted with the moving of the shipwreck and to be stored at Paul Himmers garage until they get the answers that they are looking for. Sue Foote would like to form a committee to help with the research of this shipwreck it takes a lot of time and Sue and Al could use the help. Ultimate goal is to preserve the shipwreck and place it in Harborside Park for visitors to view.

**Noyes Dam Pond:**

* Paul Lepere met with Sue Foote to discuss restoring the Noyes Pond Dam on the former Stanley Hamel residence which Paul Leper purchased. Fish and Game would like to restore the dam because they believe all rivers should run free. Importance of storm surges and sea level arise, Noyes Dam is the only thing that would stop the Cains Brook Water System if it would flood Route 1. Also it protects Centennial Street sewage pump station from getting inundated with water.

The Conservation Commission first needs Fish and Game to approve restoring Noyes Pond Dam. A Wetland permit will also have to be taken out. Duncan Mellor, who is a licensed Hydraulic Engineer would have to oversee the project make sure it will work.

* The estimated cost to repair the dam is $75,000 to $95,000. It is needed to build an aquatic rock riffle steps. Paul Lepere has offered to donate $15,000 towards the project of restoring the dam. Helen Lalime Rails to Trails member will contact Bill Manzi to set up a meeting with all departments and the Conservation Commission to discuss restoring the dam. Sue Foote, Chair of Conservation Commission will research the old documents on this project.

**Mail:**

* Rockingham Planning Commission has invited the Conservation Commission to attend their meeting on November 18 of RPC Legislative Forum on Coastal Flooding and Climate Change: Risk and Response at the Unitil Headquarters on Liberty Lane in Hampton, NH.
* The Conservation Commission received a magazine Great Bay Matters the magazine promotes research education and stewardship thought the Great Bay Estuary.
* Southeast Land Trust sent the Conservation Commission the fall issue 2015 of SELT Views. SELT has rededicated itself to conserving working farms and farm land. Their goal is to conserve at least 2 to 3 farms a year and this year they are on track. This issue SELT has highlighted and celebrates three arms that will be conserved in the coming months and years.
	+ Monahan Farm: Has a pick your own paradise. Generations of the Walker Family including Natalie Walker, her son Jeff and grandson Kevin and Brian run the Monahan Farm.
	+ Ted Rod Farm: This farm went up for sale and the residents in the area were afraid a real estate developer would purchase the land, thanks to the collaboration and significant expertise from SELT and funding from the City of Rochester, Matthew Scruton and his wife Gretchen have secured the Ten Rod Farm as a working farm for the future.
	+ Buttonwood Farm: Protecting Farmland and Drinking Water in Urbanizing Derry. SELT is pursuing the conservation of Buttonwood Farm, a beautiful 110 acre horse boarding farm along Ballard Pond in Derry. With the funding from the Town, the NH DES and a State Conservation Committees Moose Plate grant, SELT will purchase a conservation easement this fall, forever keeping the farm undeveloped and available for agriculture, forestry and passive recreation.
* UNH Cooperative Extension invited the Conservation Commission to attend the meeting on Forest Laws for Municipal Officials on Monday November 9 at the Auburn Safety Complex at 55 Eaton Hill Road in Auburn. Also we were invited to attend on Tuesday November 10, 2015 North Country Resource Center 629 Main Street in Lancaster, NH

Meeting adjourned: 7:40 pm

Next Meeting: January 11, 2016

Respectfully submitted: Judie Walker, Secretary