

APPROVED MINUTES
Henniker Conservation Commission
Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting
April 20, 2009
7:00 PM Henniker Grange Hall

PRESENT: Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Ron Taylor, Chris Fox, Rick Patenaude,
& Dana Myskowski

1) Review and approve minutes for the 2/16 meeting

Holly Green moved to accept the minutes with revisions; Rick Patenaude seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with Ron Taylor abstaining since he wasn't here in February.

2) NH Department of Environmental Services Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program Grant Application

Holly brought a map and discussed the dividing line along the Merrimack River Watershed (identified as Merrimack River Hydrologic Unit Code 8 [HUC 8] – sub watershed). She also discussed how the funding works. In order to offset some wetlands that were filled in or dredged, money from those projects has been put into a pool that funds to protect, restore, preserve, improve, and/or create a wetland within the same region. The funding available currently is the Merrimack Watershed area.

Land Preservation projects qualify to be funded if they have wetlands, uplands or other aquatic resources. A study by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., indicated areas in yellow on the maps that are suitable for wetlands restoration, though Holly doesn't know what criteria was used to identify the areas.

The question for us: are there any projects in the area that is available for funding that we think we might want to pursue? Another question raised by the group discussion: why were these yellow sites chosen? Holly suggested that if we find a location that our committee believes we should target to be funded we should also speak with the Open Space Committee to get their input. Finally, should both committees decide that it makes good sense for our community to pursue funding for a project, the land owner would need to be contacted to see if they are interested.

The grant deadline due date is June 5. Holly will meet with the Open Space Committee prior to our next meeting.

3) *Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels*

The Recycling Committee is currently offering rain barrels for sale, along with the composting barrels. Rain Gardens – Dana’s efforts on exploring this have been placed on hold while she tends to family medical needs. However, she anticipates submitting a proposal for the National Geographic/Sun Chips Green Effect competition, and will bring details of that grant application to the next meeting. (The grant application becomes available on Earth Day, April 22, at <http://greeneffect.nationalgeographic.com/rules>.)

4) *Potential New England College Student Projects*

We discussed stenciling sewer drains, as per the suggestion of Stacy Luke, District Manager for the Merrimack County Conservation District. Mark Mitch has a student who may be interested in completing this project. Mark will check with John Margeson from town to see about obtaining permission to mark the drains in a public awareness effort to help citizens realize where storm drains discharge their contents.

5) *Report on Henniker Community Profile on 4/17 - 4/18*

Ron, Mark & Holly attended (Ron & Holly both days). The citizens who attended were split into six committees: facilities, public utilities, community action/spirit, communications, natural resources, and volunteerism. Six projects/action items arose from the discussions. Next is to discover how to implement them. The follow-up meeting for the committees is on May 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Henniker Community Center.

6) *Updates to Water Resources Management Plan*

Before next meeting – Holly will e-mail what’s left to do. And Holly and Dana will meet as they attempt to type up the updated report, incorporating all the revisions to date.

7) *Other Business –*

Being that there was no other business to discuss, Holly motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:01, Rick seconded, and the vote was unanimous. The subcommittee will meet again Monday, May 18, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Myskowski
April 24, 2009