

**Board of Selectmen
June 26, 2006**

Present: Paul S. Morrill, Chairperson; Mark P. Duffy; John J. Blackwood; Robin L. Frost, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Also present were Larissa Mulkern, *The Granite State News*; Nancy Spencer Smith; Cheri Schlenker; Cliff Bardsley; and Al Mayranen. Anna Boudreau of Strafford Rivers Conservancy joined the meeting in progress.

The posted meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Morrill, who then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Morrill advised the public that this evening's meeting is solely for the purpose of the Board's voting on whether or not to purchase the conservation easement on property located on Union Meadows/Harmony Drive. Mr. Bardsley asked whether it would be possible in the future for the Town to get the State involved in assisting to protect more of the wildlife habitats. Ms. Smith invited Mr. Bardsley to join the Land Conservation Group (a branch of the Conservation Commission), which works with the State in attempts to preserve land.

Mr. Morrill advised that he now has walked the property and looks even more favorably upon the proposal to purchase the conservation easement and to preserve the property than he did previously. Mr. Duffy indicated his belief that the Conservation Commission has done a good job with identifying this property. He noted the abundant wildlife on the property, as well as the definite possibility for development. Mr. Duffy believes it is worthwhile for the Town to purchase this conservation easement. Mr. Blackwood agreed that the possibility of development exists, even considering the steepness of much of the property. However, he believes timber harvesting should be allowed in accordance with applicable regulations.

The cost of this proposal to each entity involved was reviewed. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of placement of a few picnic tables; however, the intent is not to develop a park. Mr. Mayranen stressed that the property should be kept open to the public, adding that the Town does not need another development.

Mr. Morrill indicated that he has given much thought to this proposal, and he believes that future generations will say that a good decision was made in this regard. He stated that he is proud to have been a part of this effort and thanked the Conservation Commission members for all their efforts leading up to this point. **Mr. Morrill moved, in accordance with RSA 41:14-a, that the Town of Wakefield enter into the proposed conservation easement deed purchase in the amount of \$141,000 for the subject property. Mr. Blackwood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Mr. Morrill noted that this action is in accordance with Article 21 of the 2006 Town Warrant. The closing is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28 at 2 p.m. at the Carroll County Registry of Deeds.

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Mr. Bardsley applauded the Board's efforts, adding that many generations to come will get to enjoy the wildlife on the subject property. Ms. Smith congratulated the Board on its forward thinking in this community effort.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Paul S. Morrill, Chairperson

Mark P. Duffy

John J. Blackwood