



# CITY OF GARDINER

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes December 3, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Dorothy Washburne.

Members present: Dorothy Washburne, Phil Barter, Toni Pied, Marg Barter, Joan Vining, and Jason Simcock.

#### Approval of November 5, 2008 Minutes

Joan Vining moved to accept the minutes. Marg Barter seconded the motion.  
Vote: 4 in favor. 0 opposed. Motion passed.

#### Old Business

1. Dorothy reported on the findings of the soil sample tests taken from various places downtown to determine the salt content. The salt content at the Post Office and Goslines was ten times higher than Depot Square and the Arcade. Depot Square and the Arcade samples were normal. She will talk with the business owners and see if there might be other products that they are willing to use that are less harmful to the trees. If they are not agreeable to that, then other options are to not plant trees in those areas or look at replacing the trees with container trees. Dorothy said that she can put in gypsum to correct the soil for now.

Toni Pied arrived.

2. Dorothy said that she would like to add a project to the project list. She would like to expand the invasive species project. Toni has agreed to help with that.

### New Business

3. Jason Simcock showed the design plans for the Bike Tail in the Cobbossee Corridor to the Committee members. He said that he and the engineers have worked on the design all year. The City notified all of the abutters along the route as well as held a public hearing last April. Jason said that they have applied for a MDOT grant, which would cover about 80% of the cost. There is a second grant request for monies to put in a side walk along Route 126 to the school. The City should know soon which project, or both, that MDOT will grant.

The members asked a number of questions about the design and the location of various aspects along the trail. Jason noted that he had some board walk bump outs planned, but the grants won't fund board walks, so they're taking them out for now. The estimated cost is 1.5 million. Jason said that once the Waterfront project is done, it will free the City up to begin in this area next.

A suggestion was made that there be some educational signage along the path indicating where the old dams were and their history. Dorothy noted that the old granite blocks that were the foundation for the original grist mill are still visible under Chapman's Fuel on Bridge St.

Jason said that he is looking for a recommendation for this plan from the Conservation Committee.

Phil Barter made a motion that the Conservation Committee endorse the concept as proposed. Joan Vining seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 in favor. 0 opposed. Motion passed.

#### **4. Other**

Phil asked about the piece of land off from the Marston Rd that the City owns. He suggested that we get a forester in there and selectively cut the trees to be given to residents to help with heating.

Dorothy said that she got a call from Thomas Caron who lives at Chestnut St. He would like to see Chestnut trees planted along the street. Dorothy asked him to look at where they might be able to plant trees and to also ask his neighbors what they think.

Phil Barter asked what was left in the Conservation Committee budget. Jason said that he will get that information for Phil.

#### **5. Adjourn**

9:15 AM the meeting was adjourned