7:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING: NOTICE OF INTENT:  Richard Chaffee, 13 Checkered Lane, single family home, driveway, septic, well and associated grading. Richard Chaffee, Jim Sielis and Mark Farrell, engineer from Green Hill Engineering, were present. Mark Farrell explained his plan design stating that the driveway had no more than a 12% pitch. Gordon DeWolf and Jim Talvy did the site visit.

Gordon presented the plan from Green Hill Engineering with marked areas of A, B, C, D marked and a statement of why the plan would not work.

“Statement:’”

According to the plan:

The NW edge of the driveway (C) is about 60 ft., horizontally, from the margin of the wetland (pool) (A) beside Checkered Lane.

The cut face of the top of the slope adjacent to the driveway (C) is about 10 ft. vertically, and is mapped at a slope of 2-1 or steeper.

The slope of the driveway from the top of the slope onwards (D) to Checkered Lane is within 100 ft of the mapped margin of the margin of the lake wetland (B).

Both the driveway parallel to the top of the slope (C) and the driveway sloping down to Checkered Lane (D) are within 100 ft. (the Buffer Zone) of a wetland margin.

The cut face of the top of the slop next to the driveway (C), as mapped at approximately 2-1, is too steep to be permanently stable (particularly since it is a sandy soil).

Any damage to the top of the slope (C) toward the wetland pool will jeopardize the integrity of the pool.
The driveway, from the top of the slope to Checkered Lane (D), at the mapped 12% grade, is likely to dump a large amount of runoff water, and carried sediment, onto Checkered Lane and into the adjacent lake wetland (B) during heavy rain storms and during winter and spring thaws. During cold weather this could also cause the formation of a coating of ice on Checkered Lane which could be a serious safety hazard.

Therefore:

The cut slope (C) beside the driveway at the top of the slope to the wetland pool needs to be at least 4 to 1 to protect the top of the slope from erosion which would endanger the integrity of the pool. The slope should be further stabilized by establishing a dense grass cover (sod) on the surface of the slope. Establishing a wood vegetation cover, initially, on this slope would take too long to prevent damaging erosion.

The portion of the driveway from the top of the slope to Checkered Lane (D) mapped at 12% grade, needs to have some method of diverting the runoff water which will otherwise flow down the driveway. The runoff water should be diverted in some way so that it flows into, not onto, the soil beside the driveway, so that it does not spill onto Checkered Lane and onto the adjacent wetland. Frank Chaffee and Mark Farrell pointed out that the proposed driveway was sited along the top of the slope to the pool—supposedly to allow a view of the Lake. Gordon DeWolf commented that in preliminary discussions with Frank Chaffee at the site he had told Frank Chaffee that the drive could be on the side of the slope away from the top, but that the top of the slope must be inviolate.

Mark Farrell, engineer and Frank Chaffee sited some changes that could be made. Frank Chaffee said he would use good practices. Gordon DeWolf stated that there was no problem if he stayed on the north side of the top of the ridge but does not want to see anything on the wetland side. Putting the driveway on the other side of ridge would not be a problem for conservation. Discussion of the runoff from the driveway onto Checkered Lane was inclusive. Mark Farrell felt that as proposed there would be no problem – DeWolf not convinced.

After much discussion, it was resolved that there should be a continuance of the Public Hearing at the site, 13 Checkered Lane, on March 12, 2011 at 9 a.m. with a continuance of the Public Hearing to our next meeting on April 6, 2011 at 7 p.m. where an engineered plan would be presented for review.
TREE WARDEN: Jim DiMaio was present to discuss a tree replanting program. He would like to see the right species for the right spot planted. He would like to use native trees. He presented an Arbor Day Proclamation and asked the Conservation Commission to support this. Brian Silva made a motion to send a letter to the Selectmen endorsing the Arbor Day Proclamation on April 29, 2011. Jesse Serrano second. Voted 7-0 to endorse the proclamation.

Jim DiMaio said the Town had received funding for Forest Stewardship Program and he would like the Conservation Commission to work with him. The Town has been approved for five parcels but he has asked them to approve two for this year and three for next year.

The Plans must be signed off by April. The two parcels are on Tucker Road and originally belonged to the Sportsmen’s Club. The process is going to begin by taking data with Charlie Burnham beginning this week and putting this information on a computer. The next step is to develop landowner goals. The Conservation Commission as a group answered the goals and filled out the form. Jim DiMaio said he will keep in contact and will come to our next meeting.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING - REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION: Winthrop Gay, Jr., Maple Street. Waiting for signed plan from Para. Richard Gobi, Gobi Land Engineering, did not show. He is still in Florida. Will continue until we hear from him.

ORDER OF CONDITIONS: Travis Hinton. Secretary sent letter to have him pick up Order of Conditions returned to us by Post Office. He did not show. Secretary will contact him.

MACC CONFERENCE: MACC Conference is Saturday March 5, 2011. They allow walk-ins so members may still attend. Bring back a receipt for reimbursement.

MINUTES: Jesse Serrano made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2011. Brian second. Voted 7-0 to approve.

Warrants were signed.
Mail read
Next meeting will be April 6, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary