

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of July 24, 2008**

Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order at 4PM to discuss the matter of the Conservation Commission's membership. In an opening statement, Chairman Jackson stated that the actions that have occurred previous to this meeting will not be discussed. Rather the meeting is intended to look forward as to how best to help the present Conservation Commission.

Board members present in addition to Chairman Jackson were Richard Gandt, Martha Morrison and Nancy Luther. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder, and Board Secretary Donna Rich, were in attendance. Other persons present were Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, Mike Stucka of the Salem News, Conservation Commissioners Holger Luther and Judd Pratt, and Conservation Commission Administrator Lana Spillman.

Selectman Luther announced that she had spoken with Town Counsel and Ethics Commission regarding her husband's position on the Conservation Commission. Selectman Luther has also filed a disclosure with the Town Clerk regarding Holger Luther's appointment to the Conservation Commission.

Chairman Jackson announced that two additional people have volunteered for appointment to the Conservation Commission: George Hall and Jim MacDougall. The credentials of George Hall, past president of MACC and well known environmental lawyer, and Jim MacDougall, environmental advocate and Mapping Committee chairman, were reviewed.

Selectman Gandt stated the procedural process that is typically followed with appointments (interview at a regular meeting and then appointed at the next meeting) is not being followed with in his opinion no apparent reason for expediting these appointments. Selectman Morrison stated that the citizens should have a functioning Commission and that the Board should therefore move forward with these appointments. There was a review of where the Conservation Commission workload stands to date. It was noted that the Conservation Commission Administrator is going on three weeks of vacation, commencing July 25. Ms. Spillman reported that everyone who has submitted requests for a permit has been contacted and no one stated that the timing would hinder their projects. Chairman Jackson noted that he believes that it is the responsibility of the Selectmen to "delay when appropriate and act decisively when appropriate".

Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint James MacDougall to the Conservation Commission for a term to begin July 24 and to expire on June 30, 2009, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 3-0-1, Selectman Gandt abstained, objecting to the process. Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint George Hall to the Conservation Commission for a term to begin July 24 and to expire on June 30, 2011, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 3-0-1, Selectman Gandt abstained, objecting to the process. Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint Mark Erickson to the Conservation Commission for a term to begin July 24 and to expire on June 30, 2010, seconded by Selectman Jackson; so voted: 3-0-1, Selectman Gandt abstained, objecting to the process.

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At 5 PM Chairman Jackson entertained a motion to adjourn, Selectman Gandt seconded the motion, vote: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary  
Selectmen's Office

*Approved as written at the August 4, 2008 Board of Selectmen's meeting.*