

**Minutes of the Topsfield Conservation Committee for the 7/21/2010
Meeting Held at the Topsfield Library**

Present: Mark Erickson (ME), Jennie Merrill (JM), Jim McDougall (JMcD), Holger Luther (HL).

In attendance: Eldon Goodhue, Dick Gandt, Mrs. O'Malley and her two sons.

In the absence of Chairman Hall, HL opened the meeting at 7:10. As there was no new business before the TCC, HL opened the floor for a discussion of the letter from the O'Malleys relative to the **19/19R Pheasant Lane** (Map 6, Lot 23 and Map 11, Lot 2) survey.

Mrs. O'Malley indicated that she heard that the Town – i.e., the TCC, was going to fund the survey and therefore wrote a letter to the Selectmen that the O'Malleys intended to underwrite the survey, as she thought the Town could ill afford it. She is therefore making enquiries to obtain a quote for that survey. HL noted that since Neve-Morin did the initial survey, she might want to choose another surveyor just to obtain a “second opinion”. Her proposal was generally applauded, and it was left with the O'Malleys checking in with the TCC in the September timeframe about progress in this venture.

JM reported that she is finished with her researches of the laws/regulations relative to beavers and muskrats – a copy of which was distributed to all members. HL advised her to send the document to Kathy Eramo for distribution to the relevant Town Boards such as the BoH, the Highway Dep't, and the P&C Commission.

HL explained to the members that the regulatory law relative the fuel transfer at the Fairground is governed by 527 CMR 5:08. That regulatory law puts the permitting of such in the hands of the Topsfield Fire Chief. ME recommended that the TCC refrain from commenting on the merits of the proposal pending receipt of more detailed information on the operation. All agreed. HL volunteered to write that communication.

The TCC did not discuss the 2008 strategic plan in the absence of Chairman Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40

Respectfully submitted,

Holger Luther

Accepted at the TCC meeting on August 11, 2010.