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Clarksburg Conservation Commission
111 River Road
Clarksburg, Massachusetts 01247

Clebe W. Scott, Chairman
Howard Tanner
Paula Wells

September 22, 2006

Public Comments
c/o Woodlot Alternatives, Inc.
30 Park Drive
Topsham, ME 04086

Dear Sir or Madam,

We write to support the grant application for the Berkshire Conservation Agent Program. Our Commission has contracted with BCAP for over a year and we've come a long way in understanding the regulations.... an impossible task as we are a volunteer, unpaid Commission with little time for research. Our consultant is always available if we have questions and need fast answers. Having the consultant at site visits provides the key to understanding the impact of the proposed work and how the regulations apply. With the consultant in attendance at meetings, we find the process is considerably shortened and nothing gets overlooked.


In one instance, the applicant's consultant failed to identify a large section of jurisdictional wetlands. Our consultant pointed this out at the site visit—we would have missed them. If the goal of the BCAP program is to save wetland resources by assisting Commissions, it has admirably succeeded.

(While we have utilized the educational services of the DEP circuit rider, we are so rural, that it is often too far to travel unless more than one Commission can come together. In addition, the circuit rider cannot represent us at public meetings, nor can they attend site visits).

At our last meeting we discussed adopting and implementing the scenic mountain act, something that we would never have attempted without the services of the BCAP. The fees, we might add, bring all of this in reach. They are very reasonable for a small town.

We urge you to give the BCAP application consideration so that they may continue to provide these very valuable and necessary services.

Sincerely,


Clebe W. Scott, Chair


Paula Wells


Howard Tanner