

**Marlborough Conservation Commission  
Special Meeting  
Marlborough Town Hall  
August 31, 2004  
7:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Don Hautman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the meeting room of Marlborough Town Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

The following Commission members were seated and voting:

Don Hautman  
Jack Bray  
Gordon Isleib  
Jim Montstream  
Gale Busemeyer  
Christine Miller

In addition to the members of the Conservation Commission, all three selectmen (Nancy Bader, Sharon Reiner and Bill Black) as well as various members of other town commissions and boards were in attendance.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF SHELLEY GREEN**

Don Hautman gave a brief introduction for the purpose of the meeting, which was to hear a presentation by Shelley Green of the Nature Conservancy.

**4. PRESENTATION BY THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**

Shelley Green began with a brief introduction of her role as the Lower Connecticut River Program Director, Salmon River Project. She also explained the role of the Nature Conservancy, which is a worldwide, non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

The presentation covered three main areas: 1) the areas of Marlborough that rank among the last great places in the northeast from an eco-regional perspective, 2) the greatest threats to those places and 3) how the town and the Nature Conservancy can protect those areas.

Shelley gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed the Salmon River watershed and the Meshomasic Forest as two great places in the northeast. She stated that the Salmon River water quality is so good that the water quality of other rivers in the area is measured against the Salmon River. She stated that much of the Salmon River watershed is protected land. She explained the creatures that inhabit the Salmon River and what the watershed needs to stay healthy. She did the same thing for the Meshomasic Forest. She stated that the Meshomasic Forest is one of the most important forests in the area. 35% of the Meshomasic Forest is protected as state forest. She said

that it is very special because it inhabits creatures not normally found in area forests, including the bobcat. She explained what the forest needs to stay healthy. Ms. Green also explained the various threats to these two great resources, including incompatible development, road construction, incompatible groundwater removal and recreational vehicles. She stated that it is very important that the town maintain the integrity of Marlborough's landscape (including the Salmon River watershed and the Meshomasic Forest) when looking at open space management and development. Ms. Green pointed out the main critical areas for protection in Marlborough, the largest of which is the northwest portion of town.

Ms. Green explained that the Nature Conservancy can help the town in many different ways. The Nature Conservancy can help protect critical parcels of land in the town, can provide conservation financing and can also act as a facilitator to bring various parties to the table for discussion. She also explained that the town can use scientific thresholds when planning its development. She stated that it is important that the town know its natural resources and protect its natural resources by implementing town regulations. She suggested that Marlborough perform a Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment, which will help the town identify areas of town that need to be protected. She also stated that many towns create non-profit land trusts, which are a very important tool in open space planning.

Ms. Green closed by offering her assistance to the town.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Gale Busemeyer to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Gordon Isleib and it was carried by a unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Sciano