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Conservation request \$6,791 Raise 11 percent for Sarah Hewins

In what can only be termed a slap in the face to every town employee that has gone without an increase. The Conservation Commission is recommending an \$8,000 increase on top of the \$17,000 increase she received in 2010 and a longevity payment. Hewins also serves on the Board of Selectmen. Leadership in difficult times requires sacrifice. It's difficult to see how an increase of this magnitude can be justified while other employees are asked to do without. The outrage does not stop there the conservation con artists are also asking for a 19 hour time assistant costing another \$4777. Apparently "the demands and requirements of the position have evolved into significantly more responsibility than a grade 6" The revised job description is titled Director of Conservation and Environmental Management. Fixcarver notes that the Conservation Agent is only available to the public 9 am-1 pm 3 days a week, does not work Tuesday nights but does take Friday afternoon off. Since the position was made full time her office hours and work week have remained unchanged. What is proposed to change is the title for the position and pay grade. In other words the town shells out more money and gets nothing in return. As Director of Conservation and Environmental Management Agent Hewins is expected to use "professional expertise, critical thinking, analysis, writing, organizational and interpersonal skills" and this proposal demonstrates clearly that she is lacking in almost every area. Increasing costs without providing tangible benefits violates every principle of sound management. The new job description is a 6 page exercise in self promotion. No better example is the impressive statement of Supervisory Responsibilities "Supervises all other Commission staff" Fixcarver applies critical thinking to reveal that if the existing clerical position is upgraded that Agent Hewins will supervise exactly one part time hourly employee. Hazards encountered by the Director of Conservation include the health risks of West Nile virus, Lyme disease and poison ivy. It's a wonder we can insure her at all. She is on call 24/7 for emergency response in case of contamination spills and drainage emergencies. She's spent more time draining our wallets than contaminated runoff. What's good for Carver is always just a little better or Sarah Hewins!

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