



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 5, 2022  
Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom  
Belmont, New Hampshire

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Pauline Tessier; Susan Irving (6:12); Alternate Member Georgina Lambert; Student Member Emilie DeFrancesco (via ZOOM); Student Member William Riley (via ZOOM)

Absent: Vice Chair Ed Stephenson; Members Keith Bennett; Jane Jordan; Ruth Mooney, Ex-Officio; Alternate Member Deborah Woodcock; Alternate Member Richard Moreau

Staff: Karen Santoro, Land Use Technician

Others: Donna Hepp, Belknap County Conservation District (via ZOOM)

### Minutes

- Meeting of September 14, 2022

Approval of minutes was tabled to later in the meeting due to lack of quorum at 6:00PM

### Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info

- DES Water Testing program

D. Naiva informed the Committee that nine test kits were collected for water sampling on September 18<sup>th</sup>. She delivered them to the NH DHHS Water lab on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that results are being received by the homeowners and they were reminded of the “Be Well Informed” website where homeowners can input their results and receive recommendations.

- Winnisquam Watershed Network

It was noted that Vice Chair Ed Stephenson, who typically gives the update, is out of town.

- Silver Lake Association

P. Tessier updated the Commission on the Silver Lake Associations progress with the funding for the dam study. She noted that they encountered another hurdle with the paperwork, the association can accept the money but cannot spend it until they receive an executive order that allows them to do so.

P. Tessier also informed the Commission that she has been invited to speak at the Tilton Conservation Commission meeting. She asked if there was anything that the Commission would like her to speak about. The members suggested sharing the forest stewardship plan, they will forward other ideas that they may come up with.

- Tioga/Currier Sanborn Conservation Area

The Committee recently received the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the forest stewardship plan for the Tioga Marsh Conservation Area. The Committee members discussed the findings, a significant change that was noted was regarding the glossy buckthorn. Originally the thought was to remove what is there, due to the large stand of buckthorn and the cost and difficulty in eradicating it, the new thought is to now manage it and keep it from spreading into areas of the conservation land that do not currently have buckthorn. Ron Klemarczyk noted in the plan that the dense overstory created by the hemlocks is keeping the buckthorn at

bay by keeping out the sunlight it needs to grow. The concern raised in the report is that if the woolly adelgid starts to kill off the hemlocks, that the buckthorn will be able to become established. The updated goal is to try to keep this from happening by closely monitoring those areas outlined in the report.

(Sue Irving arrived 6:12 PM.)

The forestry management plan also includes a section on "Other Forest Management Concerns" which discusses uses of the property for recreation, water resource protection, wildlife habitat management, education, cultural and historic features, unique natural features, threatened and endangered species, as well as invasive species management.

D. Hepp suggested that there may be different approaches, including utilizing other funding sources. The Committee talked about having a special meeting to go over the management plan in detail. D. Hepp will reach out to Matt Tarr, UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Biologist to see if he is available in November to meet with the commission to discuss the plan. D. Naiva asked about possibly changing the November meeting from November 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup> to accommodate M. Tarr. D. Hepp will reach out to M. Tarr to see his availability.

D. Hepp also spoke about the public outreach portion of the grant, D. Naiva asked if it needed to be done this fall. Taking into consideration the lack of well-defined trails, would it be better to postpone a public presentation until spring so that some basic trail work/markings could be done. D. Hepp informed the members that it is a three-year grant so that would be acceptable.

D. Naiva informed the members that the NH Association of Conservation Commissions is having their annual meeting and conference on November 5<sup>th</sup>, that members can attend for \$60, which is reimbursable from the Conservation Commission budget. There are some workshops that might be helpful when moving forward with the management plan. She also noted that this is an excellent place to network.

The ownership of the old railroad bed by a private owner was briefly discussed. P. Tessier will reach out to the owner and share a draft copy of the forestry management plan as their property abuts the length of the conservation area on the northeast side.

#### Projects:

- Andrew Sanborn Farm – invasives management

K. Santoro informed the committee members that she toured the Andrew Sanborn farm earlier in the day with Prescott Towle of Invasive Weed & Plant Control LLC to locate the stands of autumn olive and get a quote for spraying them. P. Towle will forward a quote for the work, he recommends spring is the best time to spray to be most effective.

- Daniel Ladd Farm – blazing & painting boundaries

Ron Klemarczyk had given an estimate for blazing and painting the boundaries of the Daniel Ladd Farm. The amount has been built into the requested budget for next year.

#### Budget/Expenditures

- 2023 Budget

The 2023 budget has been submitted for consideration.

#### Other Business

With the arrival of a fourth member, there was a quorum. D. Naiva appointed G. Lambert as a voting member.

The Committee reviewed the Minutes of September 14, 2022

P. Tessier made a motion to accept the minutes of September 14, 2022 as presented.

G. Lambert seconded the motion.

All in favor. (4-0)

Non-public Session

- RSA 91-A:3 II (d) (if necessary)


Adjournment

At 7:15 PM G. Lambert made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

P. Tessier seconded the motion.

All in favor. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,



The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Santoro". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

(Karen Santoro, Land Use Technician