

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

### Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2022  
Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom  
Belmont, New Hampshire

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Ed Stephenson (via ZOOM); Members Pauline Tessier; Susan Irving; Alternate Members Georgina Lambert; Richard Moreau; Student Member Emilie DeFrancesco (via ZOOM)

Absent: Members Jane Jordan; Keith Bennett; Alternate Member Deborah Woodcock; Ruth Mooney, Ex-Officio; Student Member William Riley.

Staff: Karen Santoro, Land Use Technician

Others: Ron Klemarczyk, Licensed NH Forester; Matt Tarr, Extension Professor & State Specialist, Wildlife Habitat, UNH Extension Service; Tyson Morrill, Restoration Project Manager, Merrimack River Watershed Council; Donna Hepp, Belknap County Conservation District (via ZOOM)

### **Minutes**

- Meeting of November 2, 2022

Postponed until the end of the meeting.

### **Workshop/Presentation**

- Matt Tarr, UNH Extension Service & Ron Klemarczyk, Forester - Management options for the glossy buckthorn at Tioga/Currier Sanborn Conservation area.

R. Klemarczyk opened the presentation with an overview of the property and the extent of the glossy buckthorn on the property. He noted that the glossy buckthorn is very heavy in the open area that had been previously logged. In the pine and hemlock stands there is very little as the dense canopy helps prevent its growth.

D. Hepp commented that there are funds built into the grant that could be used for removal of the buckthorn. She has reached out to Americorp but has not heard back yet, she noted that there is a wait list. D. Hepp also stated that there may be some funding to work on helping with other species.

T. Morrill briefly introduced himself. He noted that he works for the Merrimack River Watershed Council and may be able to provide some information on programs or funding that may be available to the Commission for projects at the Tioga Marsh and other conservation properties. He commented that he has previously worked with M. Tarr and R. Klemarczyk on projects with the Squam Lake Association. He only found out about the meeting a few days before so he will put together some notes and information and return in January.

M. Tarr introduced himself and explained that in the fall he had walked the Tioga Marsh/Currier-Sanborn property with R. Klemarczyk. He recognized the extent of the glossy buckthorn on the property, and agreed that the best plan at this point is not to try and remove what is there but to focus on preventing it from spreading into areas that it is not. M. Tarr noted that, even though it is an invasive plant, it is a habitat for wildlife. He also noted that birds are a primary spreader of the glossy buckthorn seeds, they eat the berry and the seed passes through their digestive system intact. Mammals tend to eat the seeds and not the fruit so they are not spreading the seeds.

M. Tarr and R. Klemarczyk both commented that a one-time treatment of the buckthorn is not going to be effective, it will come back. It needs to be over several years and a multifaceted approach. R. Klemarczyk noted that as part of the process, a private vegetation control company who is familiar with the different herbicides and what is effective against the buckthorn may be part of the solution but both he and M. Tarr prefer to minimize the use of herbicides as the long-term effects are not known. The goal is to encourage native species and discourage invasive species.

M. Tarr reiterated that there is no one way to “cure” a glossy buckthorn infestation and that there are a lot of options. The best method should be determined on a site-by-site basis. He noted that you can degrade a wildlife habitat when trying to do good by removing an invasive.

R. Klemarczyk stated that the seeds can remain viable for an extended period of time. The area of the property that was previously logged is very heavily invaded and considering treatment of these areas is not practical. The areas on the edges are less invaded and it makes sense to try and contain the area and push back to the area that is already invaded by glossy buckthorn. M. Tarr noted that pulling, with the exception of small seedlings, is not something he is a fan of as it creates a disturbance and could make the problem worse by loosening the soil and allowing more seeds to sprout. He commented that he prefers to avoid chemicals when possible but recommends a licensed pesticide applicator to help make the best decision.

The Commission briefly discussed the possibility of volunteers working with a licensed herbicide applicator, where volunteers could cut or pull the glossy buckthorn and the licensed applicator could apply the appropriate chemical. It was noted they are two separate modalities and it would have to be further investigated if it could be done.

(At 7:00 PM E. Stephenson left the meeting)

M. Tarr commented that there is no easy answer, it is a long-term problem and everyone is struggling with it. There are several invasives in NH, glossy buckthorn being just one.

R. Klemarczyk stated that he can go into more detail and provide an additional section for the stewardship plan that specifically talks about the glossy buckthorn and the management options. It was noted that the management plan needs to be an active document, not something that is just put on a shelf. M. Tarr noted that there is not an immediate rush, take the time to plan the approach, if it is rushed it is a great opportunity to waste time and money. If you don't have the ability to maintain any progress, it isn't worthwhile.

### **Budget/Expenditures**

#### **•2023 Budget**

It was noted that the Conservation Commission budget is going to the Budget Committee on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting starts at 6:30pm.

• Other Business

Ron Mitchell addressed the Commission. He informed them that the Ellis' who own the four-acre parcel in the middle of the Currier-Sanborn property would be interested in talking to the Commission about the sale of that property. They are offering a package deal with another property they own located on the other side of Depot Street, across from the conservation property. K. Santoro will send the Commission members a map to show them where the property is located.

R. Mitchell also informed the board of some areas on the Village Spur Trail that are going to need some maintenance. He noted areas around the bridges are starting to grow in and should be cut back to keep it from growing up to and possibly into the bridges. He also informed them that the far end near the Corliss property is starting to get grown up and should be mowed/cut back. He suggested a picnic area would be nice at that end.

R. Mitchell noted that he spoke with Mr. Stanley who owns the old railroad bed that abuts the Currier-Sanborn property. He is not interested in selling it to the Commission at this time.

D. Naiva seated G. Lambert as a voting member.

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the November 2, 2022 meeting.

**MOTION:** G. Lambert made a motion to accept the minutes as presented.  
S. Irving seconded the motion.  
All in favor. (4-0)

P. Tessier briefly updated the Commission on the status of the dam funding for the Silver Lake Association. She noted that they are concerned that they may not receive the monies from the Belknap County Commission. The Silver Lake Association has been working on trying to secure the funding for the dam study since July 2021, if they do not receive the monies, they are not sure what the next step will be.

P. Tessier informed the Commission that next year they will be looking at more treatment of milfoil in Silver Lake, to include an herbicide treatment and use of divers.

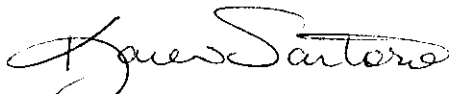
**Non-public Session**

• RSA 91-A:3 II (d) (if necessary)

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** At 7:37 PM P. Tessier made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
G. Lambert seconded the motion.  
All in favor. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Santoro, Land Use Technician