



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, April 5, 2023  
Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room  
Belmont, NH

Present: Chair Denise Naiva, Vice Chair Ed Stephenson, Members Jane Jordan, Pauline Tessier, Georgina Lambert (Zoom); Alternate Members Richard Moreau, Deborah Woodcock, Jeffrey DeFrancesco; Student Members Emilie DeFrancesco and William Riley (Zoom)

Absent: Member Susan Irving; Travis O'Hara Ex-Officio

Staff: Karen Santoro, Interim Planner/Land Use Technician and Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk

Others: Tyson Morrill and Sharon Ciampi

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:02pm and welcomed new member, J. DeFrancesco. He introduced himself, sharing he has been a resident for 22 years and brings a background in audience development including marketing and social media which he believes can be of use to the Conservation Commission. The members went around the table and introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds.

### **Corliss Farm/NH Conservation Districts' Climate Resilience grant update**

T. Morrill, Restoration Project Manager for Merrimack River Watershed Council, returned to share the next phase of this plan. The current owners of the Corliss Farm will not be bringing cows back to the pastures allowing the opportunity for restoration of the shoreline that has been deteriorated by past livestock. T. Morrill states his agency applied for and was awarded a \$10,000 grant to treat invasives on the property that may prevent growth of the 3,000 saplings they will be planting this spring. E. Stephenson asked what company will be doing the herbicide treatment on the invasives. T. Morrill shared the company was called Chippers, but was recently acquired by Bartlett Tree. T. Morrill informed the Commission that he will be looking for volunteers to help with the tree plantings. He does not have any firm dates yet as it will be after the herbicide treatment which is weather dependent. As soon as he has a timeline and some possible dates he will reach out to the Commission members.

**Belmont Cemetery Trustees**

S. Ciampi, Cemetery Trustees Chair and member of the Board of Selectmen, presented to the Conservation Commission the upcoming demand for green burials, including what are known as living forests. Green burials have become more popular from a conservation standpoint as they require no cremation, embalming, concrete vaults, or large chemically treated caskets adorned with metals. It is a natural way to be buried and reclaimed by the earth over time with little impact on the environment. The cemetery trustees are brainstorming where in town they may be able to start a living forest, with buying land out of reach due to a limited budget. S. Ciampi did state her presentation was informational to make the commission aware this may become more common in the near future. In addition to being a green option, it is also more cost effective.

**Minutes**

Meeting of March 1, 2023

J. Jordan made a motion to approve the minutes as written. E. Stephenson seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0)

**Tioga Management Plan**

D. Naiva stated the latest development was an overlay map showing glossy buckthorn infestation and eradication areas. She went on to mention if the commission is going to develop a loop trail they should do a site visit to determine a good location and avoid areas that may need boardwalks. D. Naiva proposed starting a subcommittee amongst the members to manage the priority list for the plan. J. Jordan, D. Woodcock, and P. Tessier agreed to participate in a subcommittee, with P. Tessier as the chair.

**Budget/Expenditures**

K. Santoro shared that the operating budget was passed in the March town election. She noted that there are a couple of village trees that require attention. The head of building and grounds received a quote from Bartlett Trees for \$3,200 for pruning the tree and supporting the limbs with wires. Prior to obtaining that quote, Tall Timbers said they would be able to prune the two damaged limbs on tree 29 for \$650. D. Naiva raised the question if the Conservation Commission historically has been responsible for funding these types of maintenance. K. Santoro said she will investigate with the Town Administrator to determine which department will be liable. S. Ciampi added that Tall Timbers has done work for the Cemetery Trustees and she highly suggests them.

The only other pending expenditure is \$65.00 per person for D. Naiva, G. Lambert, and P. Tessier to attend a workshop.

**Silver Lake Association**

P. Tessier claims they have applied for herbicide treatment. A notice was mailed to the Land Use Department, and soon certified letters will be mailed to all abutters. The treatment should take place May 30<sup>th</sup> when the water level is expected to be higher. After treatment, no swimming should take place for six hours and the water should not be consumed for three days. Belmont's portion of the treatment will cost roughly \$12,000. That will also cover the cost of divers to come back later in the Summer to remove the remaining milfoil.

### **Winnisquam Watershed Network**

E. Stephenson reports WWN has accepted a bid from Aqualogic for 15 days of diving/DASH services for \$23,200, 50% of which will be granted by NH DES. The remainder will come from municipal donations and WWN Members.

Winnisquam lake hosts will continue to inspect boats at the Laconia boat ramp this season. It will be staffed full time. The cost to maintain this program is sourced from NH Lakes, municipal donations, and WWN membership.

WWN received final approval on a Section 319 grant for \$125,000 to design stormwater BMPs at three priority sites that were identified during the watershed management planning process and have partnered with an engineering firm to initiate the project. The goal is for construction to begin this Fall.

E. Stephenson made mention of the Anchorage project and that construction has begun. He was not concerned that it would impact the lake.

### **Other Business**

#### Elections:

P. Tessier nominated D. Naiva for the position of Chairman of the Conservation Commission. E. Stephenson seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. All in favor (4-0).

J. Jordan nominated E. Stephenson for the position of Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission. G. Lambert seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. All in favor (4-0).

#### Review/Update CC Rules of Administrative Procedure:

K. Santoro distributed copies of page 3 of the Conservation Commission Rules of Procedure with suggested language to include student members shall serve as non-voting members through the start of the school year following their graduation. This addition was satisfactory to the Conservation Commission.

E. Stephenson made a motion to accept the language change as discussed. J. Jordan seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

#### NHACC Conference Notes:

D. Naiva tabled NHACC conference notes for another time.

#### Ellis Property:

D. Naiva started by sharing a recent conversation with Mr. Ellis, where he claimed he did not agree to sell for \$40,000, and is seeking \$60,000 for the property. He also claimed to have an interested buyer. Mr. Ellis had no comment when D. Naiva raised her concern about the lack of title for the property. K. Santoro added that the land use office has not received any inquiries regarding the property. Ultimately, the Conservation Commission decided to send Mr. Ellis a courtesy letter detailing their position.

Wuelper Property:

K. Santoro reported that no transfer of title has been recorded at the Belknap County Registry of Deeds. D. Naiva said at this point the Conservation Commission should reach out to Mr. Wuelper as he had agreed to donate the property once his listing agreement with a local Realtor had expired, and that was believed to be in April.

Mile Hill property:

D. Naiva shared that the current owner of the Mile Hill property, who has agreed to sell to the Conservation Commission, has drawn up a termination agreement between themselves and the cell phone tower company, Vertex. It has not yet been recorded at BCRD.

Ladd Hill Property Tagging:

K. Santoro said she will reach out to R. Klemarczyk to blaze the property now that the operating budget has passed.

Jeff Marden Scholarship:

D. Naiva stated the \$100 that was given from the Sargent Fund has been deposited into Lakes Region Scholarship Fund. The current balance is \$1,440. D. Naiva asked the Commission if they would like to award the usual \$500 amount for the scholarship. Everyone agreed.

Old Home Day:

With the large number of projects the Commission is currently managing, D. Naiva suggested a subcommittee to handle matters regarding Old Home Day. R. Moreau, P. Tessier, and E. DeFrancesco volunteered to form a subcommittee, and J. Jordan said she is happy to contribute. R. Moreau will chair the subcommittee. D. Naiva cautioned, if the members are to sell perennials again this year to rinse the soil off as we are facing a new invasive species in NH, Asian Jumping Worms.

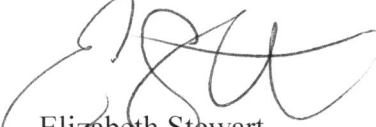
**Non-public Session**

RSA 91-A:3 II (d) (If Necessary)

**Adjournment**

At 7:53pm, P. Tessier made a motion to adjourn. E. Stephenson seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Stewart