



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, August 2, 2023
 Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room
 Belmont, NH

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Ed Stephenson; Members Jane Jordan, Pauline Tessier, Susan Irving; Alternate Members Richard Moreau, Jeffrey DeFrancesco; Sharon Ciampi, Ex-Officio (Zoom); Student Member Emilie DeFrancesco

Absent: Member Georgina Lambert; Alternate Member Deborah Woodcock; Student Member William Riley

Staff: Karen Santoro, Town Planner; Rod Cameron, Land Use Technician; Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk

Others: Louanne Stephenson

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:03pm and appointed R. Moreau as a voting member.

D. Naiva introduced R. Cameron, Land Use Technician, to the members. R. Cameron has replaced K. Santoro's position as staff assigned to the Conservation Commission.

Minutes

J. Jordan made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of June 7, 2023 as written. E. Stephenson seconded the motion. All in favor (6-0).

E. Stephenson made a motion to accept the minutes from the work day of July 8, 2023 as written. J. Jordan seconded the motion. All in favor (6-0).

Tioga Management Plan

D. Naiva shared that the trail is roughly halfway cleared, and will likely take two more sessions of clearing before winter. She mentioned that R. Klemarczyk, forester, had taken an intern to the property to initiate glossy buckthorn removal. The cost of pulling was funded by a grant. P. Tessier spoke with abutting property owners that wish to have signage posted notifying trail-

goers they are leaving the trail and have reached private property. There was discussion on where signage could be posted and what it should read to be clear. R. Cameron commented on his discussion with the department of public works regarding the parking lot. He contributed three sketches of possible parking options for the members to review and decide on. The members will review the proposed parking options and email their preference to R. Cameron.

Budget

K. Santoro touched on the commission's expenses over the past 12 months. She shared that after paying the final attorney fees for the recent land acquisition that there would be \$108,727 remaining in the Conservation Commission budget. She asked the members if they would like to ask for more money in the coming year towards invasive species management. They currently have \$3,000 allotted for that purpose. The members agreed to budget \$4,000 towards invasive species management. K. Santoro encouraged the members to get a quote for the Tioga parking lot prior to September 1st.

Silver Lake Association

P. Tessier reported that Silver Lake is still under a "no wake" order, but they received notification from DES Dam Bureau that the lake is being lowered by 6". D. Naiva asked if the Silver Lake Association has received any funds towards milfoil removal this year. P. Tessier said they had not.

E. Stephenson made a motion to expend \$3,000 to the Silver Lake Association for the purpose of milfoil remediation. J. Jordan seconded the motion. All in favor (6-0)

P. Tessier said they are waiting for the next herbicide treatment. The water level has been so high they haven't been able to determine the effectiveness of June's treatment.

Winnisquam Watershed Network

E. Stephenson shared that divers successfully removed 575 gallons of milfoil. He claimed that was a large increase compared to past years. They harvested for 15 days and the total cost was \$23,200. He further reported that they have a new trainee assisting with water testing and that it is going well.

Student Members

E. DeFrancesco has been in touch with a potential new student member to replace W. Riley, and asked for application instructions.

Community Outreach

J. DeFrancesco contributed that the Conservation Commission Facebook page has been growing. He created a QR code to advertise at Old Home Day that anyone visiting the booth can scan with their phone's camera and be directed to the Conservation Commission Facebook page. The QR code was provided to staff to include when they create posters.

Other Business

D. Naiva heard back from Mr. Wuelper regarding his 2.2 acres, and he still intends to donate the property. D. Naiva was told by the Board of Selectmen that she has their approval to accept the donation with the understanding that it would need to be conveyed by a quit claim deed.

D. Naiva was happy to report the successful closing on the Mile Hill property on July 19, 2023. She plans to send announcements to several collaborative agencies. A name for the property has yet to be determined.

Ladd Hill property tagging will take place in the Fall before the leaves have dropped from the trees.

Several members brought in items to contribute to the Old Home Day raffle. Staff handed out pamphlets for the Town Forest and Winnisquam Scenic Trail to be copied and distributed at the event.

E. DeFrancesco and J. DeFrancesco spoke on the conditions of the trails at the Jeff Marden Town Forest. S. Irving expressed that the trails need mowing. The trails are overgrown and in need of maintenance. E. DeFrancesco is going to get in touch with the school to see if they will contribute towards trail maintenance as they utilize the trails for sports practice and cross country meets.

The Jeff Marden Scholarship was awarded to three graduates this year. Each student was given \$200. The recipients were Abigail Clark, Tanner McKim, and Christopher Pare. Abigail will be studying environmental science and policy at Plymouth State University. Tanner will be studying wildlife and fisheries at the University of Vermont. Christopher, a former student member of the Conservation Commission, will be entering his sophomore year at Duke University studying environmental science and engineering.

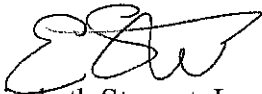
Staff were contacted by a steward of LCHIP and met him at the Currier Sanborn Property so he could familiarize himself with the property.

S. Irving attended the Belknap Conservation Forum in July. She recounted that the meeting was attended by 17 people from New Hampshire, and they identified their common priorities as conservation lands, O2 use, and climate change.

Non-public Session

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

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk