



CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 2022
Belmont Mill Penstock* Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom
Belmont, New Hampshire

*Meeting was relocated from Tioga Conference Room to the Penstock Conference Room across the hall for use of the projector and screen. A large white board was placed in the hallway directing members of the public across the hall to the Penstock Room.

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Pauline Tessier; Susan Irving; Alternate Member Richard Moreau; Alternate Member Debra Woodcock (via ZOOM) Student Member Emilie DeFrancesco; 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 Georgina Lambert

Staff: Karen Santoro, Land Use Technician

Others: Lou Barinelli, NH DHHS Water Lab Program Manager; Amy Hudnor, Private Well Coordinator, Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau of NH Dept. of Environmental Services

Public: Karen Fogg

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:05 pm and welcomed those in attendance. She said any party experiencing difficulty in accessing the meeting at any point should call 603-267-8300 x101, and the meeting will be recessed until access can be restored for all parties.

DES Water Sampling Workshop:

It was explained that the Conservation Commission has offered \$50 discount "vouchers" for up to thirty residents of the Town of Belmont to have their well water tested. The standard analysis is \$85 (minus \$50 for resident cost of \$35) or standard analysis plus radon is \$105 (minus \$50 for resident cost of \$55).

Amy Hudnor, NH DES Private Well Coordinator, opened the presentation. She noted that in New Hampshire about 46% of the population are on private wells, with the remainder on a public water supply. It was noted that New Hampshire does not have statewide water testing regulations. In Belmont, with a population of approximately 7,300, approximately 4,400 are served by public water supply; and 3,300 are served by private wells, which correlates with the statewide average.

Amy Hudnor outlined the three main causes of contaminants in well water: Human Caused Contaminants (PFAS, MTBE); Contaminants from Plumbing (lead and copper); Natural Contaminants (arsenic, uranium, radon). She noted that human caused contaminants often feel scarier than natural contaminants due to awareness and media coverage but natural contaminants are more common and can also be harmful. Amy Hudnor outlined some of the more common contaminants and the effects on the human body.

Lou Barinelli, NH DHHS Water Lab Program Manager reviewed some of the data from water samples taken in the Town of Belmont from 2006 to present. He noted that one of the areas of concern with wells in Belmont is radon, it becomes problematic when aerated (such as in the shower, dishwasher, etc.) and then inhaled as it is a known carcinogen. L. Barinelli reviewed the procedure for collecting the water samples and completing the form included with the sampling kits being distributed. He also explained the State's "Be Well Informed" website and how to enter the data received from your results into the website and receive a recommendation list for remedial action.

Amy Hudnor explained some of the terms that may be used on a treatment recommendation report. "POU" or Point of Use treatment may be recommended for items such as arsenic, uranium, PFAS or Fluoride. "POE" or Point of Entry (whole house) systems may be recommended for radon, iron, manganese, lead, copper, sulphides (due to odor) or scaling/hardness. A. Hudnor also noted there are several pitcher-type filtration systems that are on the market, most only remove taste (such as chlorine). There is only one, Zero Water, that is recognized by the National Sanitation Foundation that removes bacteria and other contaminants.

D. Woodcock asked about how the application of pesticides and herbicides might affect well water. L. Barinelli commented that if applied according to manufacturers instructions and leaving a buffer area directly around the well it should not impact a properly constructed well.

Minutes:

- Meeting of August 2, 2022

P. Tessier made a motion to accept the minutes of August 2, 2022 as presented.

R. Moreau seconded the motion.

All in favor. (5-0)

- Site Walk August 27, 2022

S. Irving made a motion to accept the minutes of August 27, 2022 as presented.

P. Tessier seconded the motion.

All in favor. (5-0)

Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info:

- Jeff Marden Scholarship

D. Naiva updated the members on the amount recently added to the Jeff Marden Scholarship Fund, with the donation from a friend and the donations at Old Home Day. \$261 was added to the fund for a current balance of \$1,160.

- Winnisquam Watershed Network

It was noted that E. Stephenson is out of town so there is no report from the Winnisquam Watershed Network this month.

- Silver Lake Association

P. Tessier updated the Commission on the recent invasive species management on Silver Lake. She informed the Commission that this year curly leaf pond weed has made its way on to the Belmont side of Silver Lake, last year it was mostly confined to the Tilton side. The divers were on the lake for three days removing the invasive pond weed. Curly leaf pond weed is smaller and thinner than milfoil, so the gallon count is not as high as it would be with milfoil. The Association is requesting \$2,100 which represents three days of harvesting for milfoil and pond weed. The daily rate for harvesting is \$1,400/day, however, this year, the association received funding that covered 50% of the daily cost.

D. Naiva made a motion to expend \$2,100 from the Conservation Commission's Invasive Species budget line to reimburse the Silver Lake Association for invasive species management.

R. Moreau seconded the motion.

All in favor (5-0)

Budget/Expenditures:

The Commission discussed the remaining \$900 balance in the invasive species management line item. They noted that the funds can be used for any of the Conservation properties, it is not just for milfoil treatment. Member Keith Bennett, who could not attend the meeting, has sent coordinates for the autumn olive that is in the Andrew Sanborn Farm property. K. Santoro will see who did treatment on it in prior years and reach out to them about doing some treatment this fall.

D. Naiva met with K. Santoro and Sarah Whearty, Town Planner, to go over the budget for 2023. One of the line items that had been removed in 2020 was a "Projects" line item. It previously had \$10,000 in it but was cut during the 2019-2020 budget process. It is being proposed to request \$1,500 this year in that line item. A quote for approximately \$995 was received from Ron Klemarczyk, Forester, for blazing and painting the boundaries at the Daniel Ladd Farm property. The additional \$500 would allow for a cost overrun on the blazing/painting project, or doing some minor trail work on one of the Conservation properties.

Other Business:

The Commission talked about the upcoming October meeting and the possibility of a walk at the Tioga Marsh Conservation Area. Donna Hepp of the Belknap County Conservation District had proposed a public walk at the conservation area in October. The Commission expressed concern about the amount of people, or lack thereof, that may show up. If only one or two people come, it may not be worthwhile, the other issue is the small parking area, if a large number of people came it would require providing alternative parking arrangements. Additionally, October is only a couple of weeks away, and there is a regular meeting of the Commission scheduled for October 5th. D. Naiva and K. Santoro will reach out to Donna Hepp regarding the walk. If it is not a requirement of the grant, then perhaps canceling it for the fall would be preferred.

It was suggested by S. Irving that perhaps for invasive species management they could get the schools involved. Perhaps a class for credit on conservation and invasive species could be created. Student member W. Riley informed the Commission that there is something called an ILO (Independent Learning Opportunity) that may be helpful.

Non-public Session:

- RSA 91-A:3 II (d) (if necessary) - None

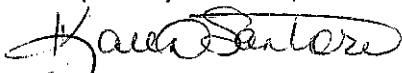
Adjournment:

At 7:58 PM S. Irving made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

R. Moreau seconded the motion.

All in favor. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Santoro, Land Use Technician