



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 2, 2022  
Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom  
Belmont, New Hampshire

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Ed Stephenson; Member Jane Jordan; Alternate Member Georgina Lambert; Alternate Member Deborah Woodcock; Alternate Member Richard Moreau;

Absent: Members Pauline Tessier; Susan Irving; Keith Bennett; Ruth Mooney, Ex-Officio; Student Member Emilie DeFrancesco (via ZOOM); Student Member William Riley (via ZOOM).

Staff: Karen Santoro, Land Use Technician

### Minutes

- Meeting of October 5, 2022

The Committee reviewed the Minutes of October 5, 2022

E. Stephenson made a motion to accept the minutes of October 5, 2022 as presented.

J. Jordan seconded the motion.

All in favor. (4-0)

### Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info

#### • Winnisquam Watershed Network

E. Stephenson provided a written summary of the year's accomplishments protecting the Winnisquam Watershed. He outlined the Lake Host program which inspected over 4000 boats at the Laconia boat launch. E. Stephenson highlighted a major save during the summer, one of the lake hosts spotted water chestnut on a boat trailer. Water chestnut is an invasive that is not found in Lake Winnisquam. He noted that there were other invasive species that were found during boat and trailer inspections. Another major accomplishment of the lake hosts was continuing to educate boaters about invasive species.

E. Stephenson outline the water monitoring that was done over the course of the summer months including VLAP (Volunteer Lake Assessment Program) sampling which is deep water sampling; VRAP (Volunteer River Assessment Program) sampling in 9 tributaries around Lake Winnisquam on a monthly basis; LLMP (Lay Lakes Monitoring Program) which does water sampling of two designated sites off Black Brook.

E. Stephenson reported on the invasive species management. He reported that divers removed 483.5 gallons of milfoil from Lake Winnisquam.

E. Stephenson also provided a copy of a summary of the Winnisquam Watershed Plan. The plan is developed using an EPA prescribed process. It looks at water quality, the plan contains a full build out analysis which indicates that a full buildout could increase the phosphorus loading to the lake by 45%

which would significantly impact water quality. The plan identifies ways to reduce the loading to the lake and ways to work with homeowners to address runoff issues.

E. Stephenson presented a letter requesting \$400 for the Winnisquam Watershed to offset the cost of the invasive species removal (milfoil), water sampling, and the Lake Host program.

D. Naiva made a motion to pay \$400 to the Winnisquam Watershed Network to offset the cost of the invasive species removal, water sampling and the Lake Host Program.

G. Lambert seconded the motion.

All in favor (6-0)

- Silver Lake Association

It was noted that P. Tessier, who typically gives the update, is out of town.

K. Santoro informed the Commission that a thank you letter was received from the Silver Lake Association for their continued support of their efforts to mitigate the invasive plants in Silver Lake.

- Tioga/Currier Sanborn Conservation Area

The Commission briefly discussed the Currier/Sanborn Conservation Area management plan. There were no new suggestions. Donna Hepp of the Belknap County Conservation District had reached out to D. Naiva regarding having Ron Klemarczyk, forester, and Matt Tarr from the UNH Extension Service come to the next meeting to discuss the management of the glossy buckthorn on the property. D. Hepp is waiting to hear back from them to see if they can make it to the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

K. Santoro also commented that she has reached out to the police department to ask that when they are in the area to swing through and check the parking area on Depot Street as there has been a lot of trash and evidence of parties occurring in the parking lot. D. Naiva noted that the brush should be cut back at the opening to make the parking area more visible from the road, this may discourage some of the less desirable behavior.

- Depot Street property (234-003)

K. Santoro outlined the Property Evaluation Checklist for the property located on Depot Street, it is on the town line. The property abuts the Tioga River and has tributaries of the Tioga that run through it. The property is a marsh with no upland area. The property has habitat for endangered, threatened or sensitive wildlife species and is an outstanding natural resource conservation opportunity.

The land is currently being advertised for sale by the owner for just over \$5,000. The Land Use Office has received several inquiries regarding the property due to the price point. K. Santoro noted that Depot Street is a State road and would require State DOT driveway permit. Due to the property being a wetland in its entirety there would be several State and local wetlands permits required in addition to any building permit if someone purchased the property with the intent to build any structure.

It was the consensus of the Commission to write a letter to the property owner to see if they would consider donating the property.

- Sargent Fund 2023 Request

D. Naiva outlined what the Sargent Fund was and what requests had been previously submitted. She informed the Commission that in past years they have submitted requests for funds for the Jeff Marden Scholarship. In the past few years the Commission received nothing, another year they requested \$1,000

and received \$250. D. Naiva is suggesting that they request \$500 for the 2023 year. She noted it is very competitive. It was the consensus of the Commission that D. Naiva submit the request for \$500 to the Sargent Fund for 2023.

#### Projects:

- Andrew Sanborn Farm – invasives management

K. Santoro updated the Commission on the quote received from Prescott Towle for the management of the invasive species Autumn Olive that has been found on the property. There are some larger stands that P. Towle recommends broadcast spraying to be the most effective and spot spraying the smaller areas where it is located.

K. Santoro informed the Board that on the day of the site visit with P. Towle, there was evidence of partying and a lot of trash is spread down the embankment at the gate on the end of Durrell Mountain Road. She has already made the police aware of the increased activity.

D. Naiva informed the Commission that on the previous weekend she had walked the property to the field and had found one of the memorial trees had been damaged. She emailed a photo of the damage to a biologist and was informed that it appeared to be from a porcupine. E. Stephenson commented that due to the extent of the damage, the fact that the tree was girdled, it will probably not survive. The Committee briefly discussed how to protect any future trees that are planted from similar damage.

#### Budget/Expenditures

- 2023 Budget

The 2023 budget has been submitted for consideration, there are no updates at this time.

For the current 2022 budget, D. Naiva informed the Committee that she had ordered updated Conservation Commission handbooks from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. The cost was \$240 plus shipping. The books were received and distributed to the members.

#### Other Business

None.

#### Non-public Session

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

#### Adjournment

At 6:59 PM G. Lambert made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

E. Stephenson seconded the motion.

All in favor. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Santoro, Land Use Technician