

Belmont Conservation Commission
Evaluation of Mile Hill Conservation Area
Minutes

Date: 11/19/2023

Location Address: Mile Hill (Parcels: 210-028-000 and 210-038-000-000)

Acres: Approximately 89 acres

In Attendance: Commissioners: Denise Naiva, Georgina Lambert, Pauline Tessier, Richard Moreau; Resident and former owner: Skip Peterson; Resident: Fred Naiva

The meeting was called to order at 10:10am. Introductions were made. The goal of the walk was briefly reviewed: to observe and evaluate the property to guide decision making for the future management and use of the property.

It was noted that there is adequate parking at the gate and along the Mile Hill roadside during most of the year. Mile Hill road; however, is not maintained during the winter.

Skip stated that the snowmobile club (Belmont Bogie Busters) installed the gate and opens the gate during the winter (by uncoupling the nuts on the chain) for snowmobiles to pass along Hubble road. Snowmobiles have not used any other portion of the property. It was agreed to keep the gate in place to discourage unauthorized use and dumping.

A few tires and debris were noted in the wetlands on the right side of the gate. Another tire and debris were noted further along the skidder road.

A moderate to large amount of young invasive species (Glossy buckthorn and Rosa Rugosa) are established along the lower portion of the main skidder road beyond the gate. A large white pine located on the left side just beyond the gate is significantly decayed. A large concrete culvert connecting the Conserved property to the neighboring property appears in good condition with adequate water flow of a small stream/wetland.

The group walked the main skidder road toward the uplands. Songbirds, deer and deer scat were observed. The upland forest is comprised mostly of pine, hemlock and some immature oak. A rich variety of mosses and fungi were noted, as well as a Yellow Buckeye seed pod. A large glacial erratic boulder is located along the eastern upper border of the property.

Approximately 50% of the interior was evaluated. The lower wetlands were not evaluated extensively.

Traditional use of the property: hunting and snowmobiling (limited to Hubble corridor).

Discussed future land use for low impact activities such as snow shoeing, cross country skiing, hiking/walking and hunting.

Short Term Goals:

Trash removal

Signage

Invasive species treatment

Possible Bio Blitz property

Contact snowmobile club (Belmont Bogie Busters)

Take down decayed pine tree

Investigate if Hubble road is a class VI (6) road

Long Term Goals:

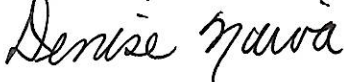
Develop a Forest Management plan

Consider a property survey

Consider incorporation of contiguous Town owned property (approximately 70 acres)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Naiva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Naiva, Chair

Belmont Conservation Commission