



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Belmont Mill Penstock Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom
Belmont, NH

Call to Order

D. Naiva called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Chair - Denise Naiva; Members - Georgina Lambert, Ex-Officio Sharon Ciampi;
Alternate Members - Richard Moreau, Deborah Woodcock, Jeff DeFrancesco

Absent: Vice Chair - Ed Stephenson, Members - Pauline Tessier, Jane Jordan, Student Members
- Emerson Decato, Emilie DeFrancesco

Staff: Roderick Cameron, Land Use Technician and Jenn Thomas, Land Use Clerk

There were approximately 7 audience members in attendance for the Invasives Program Presentation.

Guest Speaker/Presentation

NH Invasive Species Program - presented by Douglas Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator, NH Department of Agriculture

G. Lambert introduced Douglas Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator, NH Department of Agriculture.

D. Cygan presented his talk explaining the various invasive plant species throughout the State of NH & referenced those found along the Tioga River. Plant species included Japanese Barberry, Oriental Bittersweet, Autumn Olive, Japanese Knotweed, Norway Maple, Burning Bush & Honeysuckle Shrub. He explained ways to remove the invasives by using chemical sprays, brush saws, mowing, pulling/digging with wood wrenches or spade forks.

D. Naiva asked what should be done with the grass clippings from mowing.

D. Cygan explained that piles can be left for other habitat, burning the piles or hauling to a transfer station.

Membership:

- D. Naiva informed the Conservation Commission that D. Woodcook has applied for the open Member role leaving open the alternate position.

Elections:

- D. Naiva suggested to postpone elections for Chair & Vice Chair until all the members are present next month

Minutes:

- G.Lambert made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of December 6, 2023 as amended. S.Ciampi seconded the motion. All in favor.
- D.Naiva had a correction to the December 6, 2023 minutes, page 3 read D.Naiva stated that the NRI “needed” to be updated & the original statement should have been that it “maybe” needed to be updated.

Old Business:

- Mallards Landing Dredging Project – R.Cameron advised that the State of NH has rejected the project. Will require downsizing and re-designing the project.
- Town Forest Kiosk/Signage – D. Naiva asked the signage discussion for all properties be saved since they are all in need. Also adding that both kiosks need to be cleaned up and can be done as a work session.
- Mill Hill decayed tree - D. Naiva advised that the tree doesn't need to come down and to let it continue decaying. D. Naiva also suggested contacting Doug Cygan regarding the invasive species treatment once the weather permits.
- Bean Dam boundary lines – R. Cameron stated that once the weather begins to improve, a schedule can be set up for the Bean Dam, Andrew Sanborn & Daniel Ladd site visits.
- Andrew Sanborn invasive plant treatment – D.Naiva shared that Prescott had treated before so Doug Cygan may not be needed for the treatment.
- Daniel Ladd flagging – R. Cameron raised issue of boundary markers and where our limits are. He plans to evaluate the boundary monumentation later in the spring.

Budget/Expenditures:

- D.Naiva shared that the budget should go through at the Town Meeting and the Commission is in receipt of \$100.00 from the John Sargent Fund if the article is approved.

Silver Lake Association: Passed on until next meeting.

Winnisquam Watershed Network: Passed on until next meeting.

Student Members Questions/Activities: Pass on until next meeting.

New Business:

- Conservation Lands Signage Concepts – Passed on until next meeting
- BCC Logo; D.Naiva advised that per R.Cameron, the Town of Belmont seal cannot be used on our Facebook page.

Discussion ensued; in regards to utilizing a platform drive similar to Microsoft Sharepoint to provide a means for the Commission to communicate and share information.

- Community Outreach; D.Woodcock shared that a Bio-Blitz event would be a good project for the Conservation Commission. A BioBlitz is a biological inventory or census and is a method to record the flora and fauna of a specific area within a specified time frame. She noted that the initial BioBlitz could be simple, performed by members of the Conservation Commission or more structured, inviting Belmont citizens to participate. D. Woodcock added that the iNaturalist app which would get people out on some of our properties or can be made as a scientific data gathering. D. Woodcock also suggested a lightweight event in the Spring which could then become a larger event with an agenda. R.Cameron suggested that it may be beneficial to have a workshop on a Saturday morning and come up with a plan or schedule for all the Conservation Commission programs and activities. D.Naiva likes the idea of having a small group to test the app.
- Facebook page; J.DeFrancesco stated that the Conservation Commission Facebook page has a total of 56 members and is steadily growing. J.DeFrancesco also added that the comments on the page have been turned on so that sharing can take place.

Other Business:

- J. DeFrancesco suggested a collaboration working with the Town of Belmont Library on Open World Explorers.
- D.Naiva asked if the Conservation Commission would be interested in purchasing wild flower picture posters from Ginger Wells-Kay at \$10.00 per poster for each of the kiosks. G. Lambert made a motion to spend \$10/\$20 to purchase the posters. S. Ciampi Seconded the motion. R. Moreau suggested that there be an upper limit for this expenditure. D. Naiva called for a vote. All in favor.
- D.Naiva informed the Commission of an upcoming conference; Saving Special Places, The Annual Land Conservation Conference on Saturday, April 6, 2024. The conference is at the Prospect Mountain High School in Alton NH.
- J.DeFrancesco also informed the Commission of a photo contest. The town that gets the greatest number of photos will be awarded at the presentation. The contest is held by the State Conservation Commission. If pictures are submitted, the Town of Belmont needs to be referenced in order to be considered.

On a motion made by D.Naiva, and seconded by G.Lambert, the meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Non-Public Session

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

Respectfully,

Jenn Thomas

Jenn Thomas, Land Use Clerk