CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, January 08, 2020
Belmont Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Present: Members Scott Rolfe, Keith Bennett, Bobbie Jean Bennett, and Alternate Member Terry Threlfall, Jr.
Absent: Chairman Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Laurel Day; Members Lynne Lowd, and Claude Patten, Ex-Officio.
Staff: Rick Ball and Colleen Akerman.

S. Rolfe called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. due to the snowstorm and welcomed those in attendance.

T. Threlfall was appointed as a voting member.

Board’s Action – Minutes 11/06/2019:

MOTION: On a motion by K. Bennett, seconded by T. Threlfall, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of November 6, 2019. (4-0)

NH Department of Environmental Services Applications:
1. 106 Realty Trust – 6, 26, and 36 Laconia Road – Map/Lots 205-054-000-000, 205-052-000-000 and 205-050-000-000: Standard Dredge & Fill application under technical review for a proposal to redevelop three abutting commercial/industrial parcels that are at present largely vacant, involving construction of buildings for climate-controlled storage, recreational vehicle/boat storage, a commercial building and a car wash, along with associated parking areas and stormwater management features. The proposed wetland impact for the current project consists of 11,844 square feet of wetland fill in excavated drainage swales and wet meadows on previously-disturbed soils. Property owners are required to do mitigation on site or contribute to a special fund if they disturb over 10,000sf.
2. James Mocera – 435 Jamestown Road – Map 117-001-000-000: Shoreland Permit under technical review to put a roof over an existing deck and add 45sf to an existing deck.

Current Planning Board/ZBA Applications:
1. Planning Board – 11/25/2019, 12/16/2019 and 12/30/2019:
   a. James M. & Mary Bolduc and Wayne Blackburn: The Board approved a request for Boundary Line Adjustment approval to transfer 0.21 acres from tax lot 122-104-000-000 to tax lot 122-102-000-000 and 0.01 acres from tax lot 122-102-000-000 to 122-104-000-000. Property is located at 17 & 11 Gale Street, in the “V” Zone. This case resolves a property dispute.
   b. Pike Industries: The Board continued a request for Earth Excavation approval to increase quarry depth until February 2020. Property is located at 308 Depot Street, Tax Lots 235-058-000-000,
232-031-000-000 & 236-014-000-000 in the “I” & “R” Zones. This project will leave a 50-acre, 130-foot deep hole in the quarry location. Some Board members had questions that were not answered so the case was continued to allow more time to gather information.

c. Mountain Made Materials: The Board continued a request for Earth Excavation approval to expand existing excavation area including blasting until January 2020. Property is located at 224 Hurricane Road, Tax Lot 231-014-000-000 in the “R” Zone.

2. Zoning Board – 10/02/2019:
   a. Cindy Clark for Starbright Farm LLC: The Board approved requests for a Special Exception of Article 5 Table 1 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow an accessory apartment in the “RS” zone and a Variance of Article 8.F.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to increase the square footage of an accessory apartment to 950sf where 750sf is allowed. Property is located at 515 Union Road, in an (RS) Zone, Tax Lot 222-072-000-000.

3. ARC – 11/14/2019 and 12/19/2019:
   a. Robert Lord: Review of subdivision and site plan relative to the relocation of the Gale School to 60 Concord Street where it will be placed on a tract to be subdivided, then rehabilitated and developed for the provision of community services. Property located at 60 Concord Street, Tax Lot 126-026-000-000, Village Zone. They will be doing logging and excavation in preparation for moving the building to the new location.
   b. Andrew Grant: Review of subdivision proposal to subdivide one lot into two lots (Minor Subdivision). Property located at 389 Province Road, Tax Lot 215-007-000-000, Rural district.

Projects:
1. Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN): R. Ball reviewed an email from the WWN regarding projected costs, an herbicide map and a divers’ map for 2020. Costs for the entire lake for herbicide, divers, and the VLAP (Volunteer Lake Assessment Program) and Lake Host programs are estimated at $49,420, with Belmont’s portion $26,049. An estimated 11.45 acres, with 8.69 acres in Belmont, will be treated with herbicide (ProcerraCOR). Aqualogic divers will work for 25 days, with 7 in Belmont. There is no change to the VLAP cost from 2019. The Lake Host estimate does not include the cost of full-time employees. WWN came in under budget for 2019 and hopes to do so again in 2020.

2. Village Trail:
   a. Second Bridge Name: The Commission is looking for community input. R. Ball will put something in the newsletter and on the FaceBook page.

3. Tioga River:
   a. Brush out trails and inspect: Five Rivers completed their inspection, but the report has not yet been received. Currier Sanborn was also inspected. The Commission discussed a permanent deer stand with spikes in the tree and how dangerous they are. S. Rolfe noted that the tree could be cut down or the spikes could be painted and flagged. He said GPS coordinates from Five Rivers would be helpful for locating the stand.
   b. Hunting Permit: A permit was granted for coyote night hunting at the Tioga River Wildlife & Conservation Area. One was issued to the same hunter last year.

4. Currier-Sanborn: R. Ball reported that the sign has been posted. It was not as large as he expected but it is made out of epoxy and should last forever. The Land Use Department is getting a new large format printer that will print plastic banners. If the banners are exposed to direct UV light they should last one year, or two years in indirect. They could be covered with UV plastic to try to give more protection. This could be a more affordable solution for signage at $50 each instead of $500 or more.

5. Jeff Marden Town Forest:
   a. Trail Blazing: Denise and Rick placed disks with an identifier on them on all the trails. Users will be able to identify where they are to the Police and Fire Departments should the need arise.
There are markers every 500 feet and the Police and Fire Departments will get maps with the markers shown.

**Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info:**

1. **Vice Chair Vacancy:** S. Rolfe is interested in taking over the Vice Chair position from L. Day.

**MOTION:** On a motion by K. Bennett, seconded by B. Bennett, it was voted unanimously to approve S. Rolfe as the Conservation Commission Vice Chair. (3-0-1) S. Rolfe abstained.

2. **Goals/Projects for 2020:** R. Ball described a few of the goals D. Naiva recommended such as culvert management, invasive species and timber harvest.

   R. Ball reported the Commission’s 2020 budget was cut. The Conservation Fund is intended for the purchase of properties and maintenance of those properties. The Conservation Fund may be used for invasives management, but the goal is to use the fund for acquisition of properties. The current balance of the fund is over $135,000. K. Bennett asked if there are specific criteria to acquire a property. S. Rolfe explained the Commission always looks for connectivity with core habitats. There is also a form with questions about properties. The Commission has strived to obtain land along the Tioga. Belmont has no formal open space policy, but the approach follows Fish & Game’s for travel corridors. K. Bennett stated the Commission should check land carefully for invasives when looking at a property to acquire. S. Rolfe commented he thought the Conservation Fund could only be used for land purchases. Currently land prices seem to be increasing and what is affordable diminishes. R. Ball noted the Budget Committee seemed receptive to funding for invasives but voted on the budget cuts recommended by the Selectmen.

   R. Ball noted the Fellows Mills Dam has a perched culvert. Connecting it would open up 8 miles of river upstream. The perched culvert makes it tough for fish to travel upstream. S. Rolfe asked who owns the property. R. Ball confirmed the Commission owns it. It connects to the Town Forest property. S. Rolfe noted there are live brook trout there.

   The Commission discussed a timber harvest at the Andrew Sanborn Farm and Pop’s Woods. S. Rolfe said Ron Klemarczyk had suggestions. Pop’s Woods has not been treated in a long time. There are hydrosols in places there. K. Bennett asked if a timber harvest would manage the wildlife as well. R. Ball explained that the deed restriction only allows harvesting for wildlife management purposes. The Selectmen were not receptive to a warrant article to allow timber harvest funds for Conservation properties to be deposited in the Conservation Fund instead of the General Fund. The Selectmen said they will review harvest funds on a case-by-case basis. Last year’s harvest collected about $8,000. R. Ball asked if the Commission should be checking the Town Forest for regeneration. S. Rolfe thinks it will bounce back but he is concerned about invasives. It looks like there is Japanese Honeysuckle in there. We will have to monitor it to determine the best course of action.

   K. Bennett would like the Commission to look into a harvest at Pop’s Woods. S. Rolfe remarked it would need to be combined with the Sanborn Farm to get the best value. There is no market for chips right now. They are pushing the pulp. Portsmouth and Bridgewater are phasing out their chip burning plants. They can only sell energy at specific times.

3. **Saving Special Places Conference:** The conference will be held on Saturday April 4, 2020 at Prospect Mountain in Alton, NH. The conference will include workshops on a variety of conservation
4. **Bartlett Tree**: The Commission received a proposal for treatments at Mill Street and behind the Post Office. S. Rolfe and R. Ball will review last year’s proposal and work and determine what should be done this year and the Commission can review it at the February meeting. R. Ball will check to see if a motion is needed to expend the funds or if it will come out of a Town line item.

5. **Silver Lake Association Milfoil**: T. Threlfall distributed information about 2020 proposed milfoil treatment with documents from DES and Aqualogic. Twenty days of hand harvesting was recommended by DES, at a cost of $18,300. DES awarded Silver Lake a 40% grant (up from 25% last year) of $7,320. The remaining cost to be raised locally is $10,980. The Commission discussed ProcellaCOR as a potential treatment that may be more affordable. T. Threlfall stated the Silver Lake Association will have a member vote on that subject. S. Rolfe commented that if ProcellaCOR is in fact selective, it is a viable alternative.

**Budget/Expenditures:**
- **Budget Status**: None

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION**: On a motion by K. Bennett, seconded by T. Threlfall, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:59 pm. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Akerman
Building and Land Use Clerk