D. Naiva called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed those in attendance.

T. Threlfall was appointed as a voting member.

**Board’s Action – Minutes 01/08/2020:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by K. Bennett, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020, with a change on page 3 from “live brook trout” to “native brook trout”. (5-0)

**NH Department of Environmental Services Applications:**

1. **Lane Lodges on Winnisquam, LLC – 30 Sunset Drive – Map/Lot 104-056-000-000:** Shoreland permit approved to impact 600sf of protection shoreland to remove existing structure on sonotubes to install a foundation and reconstruct in the same footprint.

**Current Planning Board/ZBA Applications:**

1. **Planning Board – 01/27/2020 and 02/24/2020:**
   a. **Mountain Made Materials:** The Board approved a request for Earth Excavation to expand existing excavation area including blasting. Property is located at 224 Hurricane Road, Tax Lot 231-014-000-000 in the “R” Zone.
   b. **Robert O. Lord:** The Board approved a request for subdivision approval to subdivide one lot into two. Property is located at 60 Concord Street, Tax Lot 126-026-000-000 in the “V” Zone. The 13-acre lot was subdivided into a 1-acre and a 12-acre lot. They will be submitting a Site Plan to move the Gale School Building to the newly created 1-acre lot.
   c. **Andrew Grant:** The Board approved a request for subdivision approval to subdivide one lot into two. Property is located at 389 Province Road, Tax Lot 215-000-000-000 in the “R” Zone. A previously approved 42-lot subdivision for this property was abandoned. Most of the property will be kept open for horses.

2. **Zoning Board – 01/22/2020 and 02/26/2020 (No meeting):**
   a. **Donald & Lisa Simpson:** The Board approved requests for: 1) a Special Exception of Article 11.A.3.c of the Zoning Ordinance to create useable space (floor area in excess of 48” in height)
within the preexisting nonconforming section of the structure; and 2) a Variance of Article 5 Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance to construct a porch closer (34.7’) to the front property line than allowed (50’). Property is located at 13 Linda Drive in an “RS” Zone, Tax Lot 107-059-000-000.

b. Joseph Lograsso: The Board approved a request for a Special Exception of Article 11.A.3.c of the Zoning Ordinance to create useable space (second story) within a preexisting nonconforming footprint. Property is located at 212 Gardners Grove Road in an “RS” Zone, Tax Lot 119-015-000-000.

3. ARC – 01/23/2020 (No meeting) and 02/20/2020:

a. Smith Orchard/Wende Richter: Review for Agriculture (Outdoor Agritourism Functions-Weddings, Meals, Birthday Parties, Educational Tours, Anniversary Parties), 184 Leavitt Road, Tax Lot 211-077-000-000, Rural and Residential Single-Family districts. She will be going to the Planning Board with a small Site Plan. The Planning Board wanted abutters to be able to weigh in on this and they would like to put restrictions on hours and number of events. D. Naiva asked if Belmont has agritourism ordinances. R Ball said that agritourism is part of agriculture. The recent State changes did not take away a Town’s right to require a Site Plan for agritourism.

Projects:

1. Village Trail:

a. Second Bridge Name: The Commission asked for suggestions in the Town Newsletter and received one suggestion by email, “Whispering Pines”. D. Naiva recommended asking for additional suggestions at an Old Home Day booth.

b. Kiosk Sign: There is no kiosk sign for the Village Trail. R. Ball said he spoke with D. Tousignant about replacing the plexiglass on the existing sign and he has some other ideas. D. Naiva noted she will be attending a signage workshop at the Saving Special Places conference. R. Ball reported that the new large format printer in the Land Use office should print signs suitable for outdoors. The signs should last one year in direct sunlight and longer in indirect sunlight. A UV film over the signs could also extend the life.

c. Granite Bench: Someone has asked to replace the wooden bench at the beginning of the trail with a granite bench in memory of her husband. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow the replacement.

2. Tioga River:

a. Five Rivers Report: This year’s report is similar to last year’s report and had no specific recommendations. The report talked about the old deer stand and a pile of junk, as well as ATV use and trash in the parking area.

b. Tree Stand: S. Rolfe said the tree stand should be checked out. There was talk of perhaps taking the tree down but that may not be the best option. The specific location should be noted. K. Bennett commented that the report indicates “new” tree stand. D. Naiva said a field trip should be scheduled.

3. Fellows Mills Dam:

a. Perched Culvert: S. Rolfe reported he has done some research and spoke with a specialist at Fish and Game. This stream is a low priority because there is not a large viable cold-water fish population. The work would require checking the sediment load above the dam and testing for contaminants. If there were contaminants an assessment of discharge would be required. The situation could snowball but the Commission should still take a look at it. Perhaps the Commission could do the work with an excavator. D. Naiva asked what the next step should be? S. Rolfe said anyone who wants to attend should meet with John Magee on-site in May. R. Ball should attend. R. Ball will check on the cost for excavator work. We could take out the pipe to retain the same level and then step it down. There is plenty of rock to step it down but not allow sediment. The work would be similar to the culvert work at Church Hill.
4. Jeff Marden Town Forest:
   a. Trail Inspection: S. Rolfe emphasized the importance of scheduling inspections because this is
promoted as an accessible trail. In the spring after the snow melts one or two people should go
out to check the trail. It needs to be checked after wind and storm events. The status of the red
pine can be checked at the same time. There is one bridge that may need replacement but it may
be off of Forest property. R. Ball should put out some dates on a “doodle”.

5. Timber Harvest – Sanborn Farm/Pop’s Woods – S. Rolfe talked about the habitat management
plan from Ron Klemarczyk. If the Commission wants to do a harvest within the next year it needs
to be put in the schedule to line someone up for the work. Perhaps the market will be better by
then. There was discussion about the funds from the harvest. R. Ball confirmed the Commission
can approach the Selectmen on a case by case basis to retain the funds from harvests for the
Commission. D. Naiva commented if the funds can be retained, they could potentially be used for
invasive species, as the Commission budget was cut this past year. S. Rolfe said if it was requested
another fund could be set up.

6. Bartlett Tree – Town tree treatment: S. Rolfe has been trying to reach Ian Craveiro to schedule a
meeting in March. R. Ball reported there is no longer a dedicated tree fund but there is a general
maintenance fund that would be used for treatment.

7. Invasive Species Priorities: D. Naiva said she will contact Doug Cygan because he volunteered to
help prioritize projects. There was discussion that the priority should be the Village Rail Spur
Trail. It would be a good starting point because we can’t address every property right away. S.
Rolfe noted Mr. Cygan thought the issue was pretty exacerbating down there. It is questionable if
we could begin to start treating it. It can’t be eradicated but it may be able to be controlled. D.
Naiva will schedule something with Mr. Cygan to look at the trail. R. Ball observed Mr. Cygan
has helped the Department of Public Works with invasive species projects along roadways.

8. Conservation Lands Work Projects for 2020: S. Rolfe asked about small projects that may need
to be done, such as the TF bridge replacement. There has been past discussion about the property
near Gardners Grove and the boat launch. T. Threlfall will check if any work has been done there
once the snow and ice have melted.

   Work on culverts at Andrew Sanborn Farm was discussed. D. Naiva wondered if the culverts were
viable for passage of fish. S. Rolfe said we won’t know until it is sampled. It is in the headwaters
so there is likely native brook trout in there. D. Naiva asked about the tributaries near the beaver
pond. S. Rolfe will ask John Magee about them.

K. Bennett suggested fertilizing the oaks and some maintenance at the Sanborn Farm property. D.
Naiva noted the ink for the planting identifications washed away. There was discussion of looking
for a paint pen to use instead. K. Bennett suggested using color coded markers of some sort and a
sign with a chart/legend. R. Ball asked if the Commission would like to purchase any new plants
this year. The Commission decided to evaluate and work on the plantings they already have.

Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info:
she has signed up for three workshops and offered for two Belmont High School students to attend.
She has not heard back yet from Amy Burke. S. Rolfe suggested speaking with the science teachers
as well.

2. NHACC Annual Strategic Planning Survey – The Commission reviewed and answered questions
on the survey. Some of the information to be submitted includes three critical issues to respond to
over the next three years: water quality; development and how it impacts wildlife and recreation; and
invasive species. Changes or actions that would have the biggest impact on the Commission: funding and public participation. Struggles the Commission could use help with are keeping milfoil and invasive species under control. The percentage of Land Use Change Tax that is allocated to the Conservation Fund is 100%. Belmont is very fortunate.

**Budget/Expenditures:** None

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by K. Bennett, seconded by T. Threlfall, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:03 pm. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Akerman
Building and Land Use Clerk