CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, June 3, 2020
Belmont Corner Meeting House / Zoom
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

D. Naiva called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and welcomed those in attendance. She announced that as Chairman of the Conservation Commission, she finds that due to the state of emergency declared by the governor, this public body is authorized to meet using electronic means. She said that the Commission gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting using Zoom or telephone, and she announced that any party experiencing any difficulty in accessing the meeting at any point, should call 603-267-8309, and the meeting will be recessed until access can be restored for all parties.

T. Threlfall was appointed as a voting member.

Board’s Action – Minutes 03/04/2020:
MOTION: On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by T. Threlfall, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 4, 2020. (5-0)

NH Department of Environmental Services Applications:
1. Janine & Robert Norkiewicz – Sargent Lake Road – Map/Lot 238-021-000-000: Shoreland Permit approved to impact 7,330sf protected shoreland to construct 2-bedroom structure with onsite septic, driveway and 6-foot path to water.
2. Eversource: Statutory permit by notification complete for vegetation maintenance.
3. Cheryl Plummer – 102 Sun Lake Drive – Map/Lot 101-001-014-000: Shoreland Permit accepted to impact 335 sf protected shoreland to extend existing deck and attach porch.
4. Woody Fogg – 433 Jamestown Road – Map/Lot 118-012-000-000: Shoreland Permit approved to impact 8,738sf protected shoreland to construct patio, fire pit, permeable parking, converting driveway to permeable material, installation of steps and landscaping.
5. Michael Rancourt – 36 Tucker Shore Road – Map/Lot 107-089-000-000: Shoreland Permit rejected to impact 396sf protected shoreland to expand existing deck.
6. Keith Rodrigue – Jamestown Road – Map/Lot 118-014-001-000: Shoreland Permit under technical review to construct a single-family residential home and new driveway.
7. Route 106 Realty Trust – Laconia Road Map/Lot 205/50, 52, 54: AoT for commercial site.
Current Planning Board/ZBA Applications:
1. **Planning Board:** The Board met virtually on May 12th to permit temporary outdoor dining service, with Code Enforcement and the Fire Department performing inspections. The Board also met virtually on May 18th where Pike Industries’ request to continue their application was approved. A Change of Tenant for Lakes Region Truck Service was approved for vehicle repair operations at the former Winnipesaukee Truck Service at 569 Laconia Road. They are also seeking approval to operate a guns and ammunition business at the same location and the Board determined that Site Plan approval may not be necessary. The Board determined that Empire Beauty School would not require a new Site Plan to operate at 223 Daniel Webster Highway. The Board determined that a Site Plan will be required to install a subordinate dwelling unit at 48 Dearborn Street. The Board also approved a merger of three lots at 63, 65 and 67 Dearborn Street.

2. **Zoning Board – No meetings**

3. **ARC – 05/21/2020:**
   a. *Phil Brouillard - 930 Laconia Road, Map/Lot 122-057-000-000:* Review for adding parking spaces, a deck and expanding the Tap Public House into the downstairs of the current location.
   b. *Gary Anderson - 48 Dearborn Street, Map/Lot 123-028-000-000:* Review for operating an indoor recreational facility, solar farm, automotive dealership, junkyard, multi-tenant garage bays and storage and sales of surplus material and appliances, and installing a sign, solar array and subordinate dwelling.
   d. *Pensco Holdings – 8 Church Street – Map/Lot 122-030-000-000:* Review for a one-year extension of Site Plan and Conditional Use Permit for a 4,000sf commercial building, up to four units, office and/or retail.
   e. *BMBH Real Estate Holdings, LLC – 33 Province Road – Map/Lot 204-028-000-000 & 204-030-000-000:* Review for reappraisal for previously approved earth excavation operation.
   f. *George Condodemetraky – 69 Main Street & Laconia Road – Map/Lots 122-053-000-000 & 122-059-000-000:* Review for bringing in fill to level a 4,500sf area was tabled.

Projects:
1. **Milfoil Remediation:**
   a. *Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN):* L. Lowd reported that Solitude Lake Management is expected to come at the end of June but there is no date set yet. The WWN is supposed to meet this coming Monday and will find out more about when and if they will be using divers. L. Lowd would like Commission members to consider coming out to Sunray Shores before and after milfoil treatment.
   b. *Silver Lake Association:* T. Threlfall gave members handouts on the work Aqualogic did last fall. They had 30 dive hours and harvested 700 gallons of milfoil in the Gardners Grove area. On the last day of diving, they found a bunch in the middle of the cove, which they estimate will take 21 days of harvesting. The information has been sent to Amy Smagula at NHDES. For 2020 the estimated total cost for Diver/DASH treatment is $18,300.00. The grant award would be $7,320.00 with a local cost of $10,980.00. The Silver Lake Association has not yet held their annual meeting. They have contacted Aqualogic about selling the milfoil boat the Silver Lake Association owns. Aqualogic will give three days of dive time for the boat. T. Threlfall said that any help the Commission can give would be appreciated. R. Ball asked if the association is considering using ProcellaCOR for treatment. T. Threlfall said they feel it would be the most cost-effective solution for Silver Lake. D. Naiva asked that the Commission be updated after the
association’s annual meeting.

2. Village Trail:
   a. Invasive Plant Remediation: R. Ball explained that Mr. Prescott Towle of Invasive Weed & Plant Control LLC has given an estimate of $2,000.00 to treat the first 200 feet by 40 feet at the start of the trail. R. Ball, D. Naiva, and Mr. Doug Cygan, the NH Department of Agriculture’s Invasive Species Coordinator, walked from the first bridge halfway to the second bridge and found overwhelming invasives. There is Honeysuckle, Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, bittersweet, and more. A permit will be needed if treating within 25 feet of the water. A permit may also be needed for work on the ROW for the sewer. The path will need to be cut and mowed first. The compost would need to be left on site. There are issues with invasives on neighboring properties as well. Mr. Cygan told R. Ball and D. Naiva that if they decide to target the trail, they will need to look upstream to see what other species are there and how it could impact things down river. S. Rolfe commented that it seems like an uphill battle. D. Naiva asked what if we only treat the Honeysuckle. S. Rolfe explained that with such a mix of invasives, getting rid of one will allow another to infiltrate. Mitigation and planting would need to be done quickly to keep the invasives from coming back into the area. T. Threlfall asked if natural fires help eradicate invasive species. S. Rolfe said no. R. Ball said that Mr. Cygan told him that he has seen Japanese knotweed come back after 7 years. The only way to control invasives is to find a natural predator. D. Naiva said that some beetles may eat invasives but they could become a problem later on. It is discouraging. It was the consensus of the Commission to not authorize the spending of the $2,000.00. S. Rolfe stated that if the Commission is going to spend money on invasives, there are other areas where the money would be better spent. D. Naiva agrees. If the Commission puts their resources to better use, they will “get more bang for their buck”. R. Ball will let Mr. Towle know what the Commission decided.

   b. Naming Second Bridge: D. Naiva and R. Ball talked about putting up a poster about naming the bridge, along with some smaller posters about invasive species along the trail.

   c. Kiosk: R. Ball used the Town-owned plotter to print a new vinyl map. It should last at least a year with ¼” plexiglass directly on top of it. The inks are more stable UV-wise. The plexiglass with no gaps should help prevent vandalism. The Commission also recommended providing more doggie bag dispensers.

3. Bench: R. Ball explained that Susan Woodbury has asked to place a bench along the trail. Previously the Commission approved a memorial bench which should be installed within the next week or two. This new second bench would be put in by the second bridge where there is a view of the pond and lush wetland. The bench will be granite for durability and will also need to be pinned down for safety. S. Rolfe suggested that at some point in the future there may need to be a limit on bench installations. The Commission agreed.

4. Tioga Marsh:
   a. Tree Stand – TRW & CA: D. Naiva said that a specific location for the tree stand should be noted, but no one has been out there yet. The Commission should have a work day for trash pickup and to brush out the trail. S. Rolfe noted he saw some hunters there in the fall. T. Threlfall said he notices people get back to the old rail bed and follow the trail to the lake. D. Naiva asked if there has been any vandalism. No one has seen any vandalism. S. Rolfe recommended an August work day.

   b. Brushing Out Trail – TRW & CA: A work day will be scheduled.

   c. Boat Ramp – Currier-Sanborn: R. Ball will speak with the DPW director. T. Threlfall stated the road was graded and salted a few months ago.

5. Tioga Headwaters:
   a. Plantings/Mowing – Andrew Sanborn Farm: D. Naiva said she was out there today. The trail
system is being used by lots of horses. The road is in rough shape. There are 18 blueberry bushes doing well. There are also three hazelnut trees, four dogwood trees, and three Virginia rose bushes. There is a dead grape vine and the oak trees look stressed. S. Rolfe recommended the dead parts of the oak be removed. They will need water if it stays this dry.

b. **Timber Harvest – Pop’s Woods:** D. Naiva asked S. Rolfe about getting on someone’s schedule if there should be a timber harvest. S. Rolfe said the market has changed dramatically. Putting it off is a good idea at this point. There was discussion that the harvest should be for wildlife management.

c. **Culverts – Andrew Sanborn Farm:** R. Ball stated that most of the streams dry up over the summer. S. Rolfe will speak with John Magee at New Hampshire Fish & Game about scheduling a walk if they are starting to go out in the field. The culvert should get down to a stream bed so it is not an obstruction. S. Rolfe said they won’t know if there are fish until it is sampled. If the stream is not perennial there is no point in making any changes.

6. **Jeff Marden Town Forest:**
   a. **Sign:** R. Ball proposes replacing the property signs with something inexpensive and easy to make such as routed signs. R. Ball showed the Commission pictures of simple signs used at other conservation properties in the area. Building & Grounds said they could make the signs but they would need a set or two of letter templates. The Commission agreed to the new property signs.
   b. **Bridge Replacement:** R. Ball will check to see if Building & Grounds can build a simple platform. The Town Forest will also need a work day.

7. **Fellows Mills Dam:**
   a. **Perched Culvert:** R. Ball was supposed to get an estimate to excavate this perched culvert but it is not a high priority. Mr. Magee would have recommendations and the Commission would need to go through the DES process to see what they would say.

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

1. **Goal Projects for 2020:** Members listed the boat launch, culverts and any other reasonable projects. Many of these items have already been discussed under other agenda items.

2. **Village Trees:** R. Ball explained that the Town did not hire Bartlett this year in order to reduce expenditures. S. Rolfe commented that the tree at the Corner Meeting House should be pulled at some point as there is not enough room for the root system and it already has 20% die back. He suggested replacing it with a lilac or other bush.

3. **Wildlife Baiting:** It was the consensus of the Commission to grant permission to bait deer on either side of Edwards Road. The same resident has been granted permission the last few years.

**Budget/Expenditures:** There have only been $35 in expenditures so far this year. The Town is trying to watch what is being spent.

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by L. Lowd, seconded by L. Day, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:03 pm. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Akerman
Building and Land Use Clerk