



CONSERVATION COMMISSION TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom
Belmont, New Hampshire

Present: Chairman Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Scott Rolfe; Members Terry Threlfall, Jr. and Ed Stephenson; Student Member Ella Irving.
Absent: Members Keith Bennett and Jane Jordan; Student Member Christopher Paré.
Staff: Rick Ball and Colleen Akerman.
Zoom: Student Member Ella Irving; Member Ruth Mooney, Ex-Officio.

D. Naiva called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm and welcomed those in attendance.

Board's Action – Minutes 4/07/2021:

MOTION: S. Rolfe moved to approve the minutes of April 7, 2021.

The motion was seconded by E. Stephenson and carried. (5-0)

NH Department of Environmental Services Applications:

1. **DKC Realty – 62 Sunset Drive Building 1 – Map/Lot 104-046-000-000:** Shoreland PBN accepted to impact 770sf of protected shoreland to replace rear deck with in-ground stone wall and paver patio with deck piers for a future raised deck above. Also jacking up the second floor front porch for removal of first floor porch, in order to excavate to pour a concrete footing/frost wall, then frame as an enclosed entryway.
2. **Dawn and Donald Godin – 439 Jamestown Road – Map/Lot 117-002-000-000:** Shoreland Standard under administrative review to replace an existing house.

Current Planning Board/ZBA Applications:

1. Planning Board 04/26/2021 –

- a. **106 Realty Trust – 36, 26 and 6 Laconia Road – Map/Lots 205-050-000-000, 205-052-000-000 and 205-054-000-000:** The Board approved a site plan request for a reconfiguration of self-storage units. The applicant withdrew a request for a manager's apartment.
- b. **Wende Richter – 184 Leavitt Road – Map/Lot 211-077-000-000:** The Board approved a site plan request for outdoor agritourism functions including weddings and other events.
- c. **Richard Page – 284 Laconia Road – Map/Lot 210-002-000-000:** The Board approved a site plan for a retail lumberyard with indoor milling operations. The applicant withdrew a request for vehicle storage.

2. Zoning Board – 04/28/2021:

- a. **Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless – 73 Bishop Road – Map/Lot 205-009-000-000:** The Board granted a variance request to construct a wireless communication facility with a monopole structure.

3. ARC – 04/22/2021:

- a. **Andrew & Tina Thurber – 51 Hurricane Road – Map/Lot 222-074-000-000:** Review for subdivision of one parcel into two.

Projects:

1. **Tioga Marsh Conservation Area:** R. Ball said there is no update yet on the grant that was submitted. A decision on the grant is expected over the summer.
2. **Property Inspections:** D. Naiva asked S. Rolfe if he has checked on the harvest of the red pine area at the Town Forest. He said yes and it is coming back. There is honeysuckle and some other invasives in the area. It needs to be monitored. S. Rolfe commented that he still needs to fill out a monitoring form. There was discussion about modifying the Property Monitoring Form to a fillable PDF format and using a phone app to track GPS coordinates while inspecting. The app maps out where you went on the site and lets you put a point on the map for any areas of concern. The forms are paper for now but could be electronic in the future. R. Ball reported that he did not yet inspect the Currier Sanborn property with J. Jordan. He will be going out next week to check the signs. D. Naiva asked if the safety zone signs were installed in the Andrew Sanborn Farm area. R. Ball said that he and K. Bennett installed the signs a couple of weeks ago.
3. **Jeff Marden Scholarship – Donors Week May 17-21:** D. Naiva explained that she contacted the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation and there are a number of applicants for the scholarship. They will contact her the second week of May to review the applications.
4. **Tioga Marsh Conservation Area:** D. Naiva reported she noticed a pile of beer cans in the parking lot and picked them up. There is other garbage including a partial pallet and yard waste. The top of the sign has also broken off. S. Rolfe commented that it looks like rot, not vandalism. R. Ball acknowledged the sign will need to be repaired or replaced.
5. **Site plans:** D. Naiva asked if landscaping plans are included when developers submit a site plan to the Town. R. Ball answered yes, they are reviewed by Staff, department heads and the Planning Board. Plants and tree names are included on the plans. S. Rolfe confirmed that he is currently reviewing the site plan applications for the Conservation Commission. R. Ball explained that Staff tries to guide people towards appropriate plants, trees, and bushes for the location and weather. There is a booklet published by the Department of Agriculture that is used for reference. D. Naiva asked if tree removal is included in site plans. She is referring to Leavitt Road and the big portion of property that was clear cut. It is a mess. S. Rolfe commented that developers are supposed to get a basal area variance. However, if they are not going to stump within 150 feet of the road, it is technically still forest. If they are creating lawn or a field, they are converting it and it doesn't qualify. R. Mooney mentioned the property on Dearborn Street. They were originally going to selectively cut it, but then it was clear cut and there are erosion issues. R. Ball said the state regulators generally don't go after single lot owners; they are looking for timber tax violations. S. Rolfe mentioned that it used to bother him when people haphazardly cut their property, but it was okay if they didn't put in 10 houses. Visually, people have emotions attached to what they perceive as an impact. To a lay person, it is devastation. It is not

landscaping. From what he has experienced in the public section, everything is based on emotional reactions. D. Naiva expressed concern about the amount of water collected at the base of the hill because there are no trees there. R. Mooney commented that it was opened up for the views.

- 6. Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN):** E. Stephenson reported that someone has built a shack on the shore of Lake Winnisquam in the Town Beach area. R. Ball explained that the police will be down in the area this week doing a sweep. S. Rolfe said he saw the shack last week. R. Mooney noted that some of the property is owned by the State and they will allow people to stay there. There is a fine line of what the Town can do on State property.

E. Stephenson mentioned that he spoke with Senator French and he is vehemently opposed to selling off Ahern State Park and the forest. Senator French would like to take some of the land from the school property and increase the size of Ahern State Park.

WWN received a \$2,500 grant from NH Lakes for the Lake Host program. They plan to run the program from Memorial Day to Labor Day with two full-timers on the weekends and one full-timer on week days. They will be paid positions. They are also looking for volunteers.

There is a watershed workshop on May 18th. D. Naiva forwarded the email to Commission members and E. Stephenson handed out some paper flyers. D. Naiva said she also posted about it on the Belmont Community Facebook page.

The Moose Plate Grant was approved by the Governor and Executive Council. It will be used to fund a culvert survey and the intern who is working on the stormwater/watershed plan for Winnisquam. E. Stephenson asked what the Town policy is for cleaning out culverts. R. Ball does not know, but he will check with DPW. When there is a problem, he knows that they take care of it. R. Ball noted that LRPC offers a service for mapping and describing the condition of culverts and what can be done to help them.

- 7. Silver Lake:** T. Threlfall reported that the Silver Lake Association Board of Directors meeting will be held on May 12th. They are going to determine a plan of attack for milfoil. Chemicals will be discussed due to the quantity of milfoil. It is a small lake and Gardners Grove has no current. E. Stephenson commented that so far he is happy with the chemical treatment of Winnisquam from last year. T. Threlfall will keep the Commission informed.

Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info:

Student Membership: D. Naiva asked E. Irving if she has any questions, and if she is involved in any other activities. E. Irving explained that she is trying to get friends together to work on some raised garden beds at the high school to study pollinators. Maintenance and the water supply are difficult. She is working on resources with a science teacher.

Budget/Expenditures:

Andrew Sanborn Farm Fence Posts:

MOTION: E. Stephenson moved to withdraw \$47.94 from the Conservation Fund for the following:
a. Fence Posts for Andrew Sanborn Farm hunter safety zone

The motion was seconded by S. Rolfe and carried. (5-0)

Elections:

MOTION: D. Naiva moved to elect S. Rolfe as Chairman.

The motion was seconded by T. Threlfall and carried. (4-0-1) S. Rolfe abstained.

MOTION: S. Rolfe moved to elect T. Threlfall as Vice Chairman.

The motion was seconded by E. Stephenson and carried. (4-0-1) T. Threlfall abstained.

Next Meeting: It was the consensus of the Commission to hold the next meeting on June 2, 2021.

Adjournment:

MOTION: D. Naiva moved to adjourn at 6:41 pm.

The motion was seconded by E. Stephenson and carried. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Akerman
Building and Land Use Clerk