



CONSERVATION COMMISSION TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, May 3, 2023
Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room
Belmont, NH

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Members Jane Jordan, Pauline Tessier, Georgina Lambert; Alternate Members Richard Moreau, Deborah Woodcock, Jeffrey DeFrancesco; Sharon Ciampi, Ex-Officio; Student Members Emilie DeFrancesco and William Riley (Zoom);

Absent: Vice Chair Ed Stephenson; Member Susan Irving

Staff: Karen Santoro, Town Planner and Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk

Others: Tyson Morrill and Sarah Thorn

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:05pm

5 Rivers Regional Conservation Plan

D. Naiva introduced, Sarah Thorne, a volunteer board member with 5 Rivers Conservation Trust. S. Thorne shared with the commission that 5 Rivers has been working on land conservation in the greater Concord area for over 30 years, including the Tioga Marsh project with the Belmont Conservation Commission. Their purpose is to help municipalities and local land owners obtain conservation easements. After the land is conserved, they maintain stewardship to ensure it is used appropriately. She presented to see if the Conservation Commission would be open to a collaboration. S. Thorne opened the floor for input. D. Naiva mentioned several properties in Belmont that have been of interest to the conservation commission. S. Thorne invited all those who are interested to a meeting in Concord on June 5th where they will be sharing their data collected from a regional natural resource inventory.

Minutes

J. Jordan made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of April 5, 2023 as written. P. Tessier seconded the motion. All in favor (4-0).

G. Lambert made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 29, 2023 site walk as written. P. Tessier seconded the motion. All in favor (4-0).

Tioga Management Plan

P. Tessier shared that the trail they have marked out is going to require a lot of work to create. While researching, she discovered the University of New Hampshire has a tool library where you can reserve outdoor equipment that would be used for trail making. The goal is to complete the trail by September. The members agreed they will determine days they will be available to get together and work on clearing the trail.

Budget/Expenditures

The only current pending expenditure is determining the cost for tagging at the Ladd Hill Farm Property.

Silver Lake Association

P. Tessier reported Silver Lake was declared a “no wake” zone after the large amount of rain it received in the days prior. This will remain in place until the water level recedes.

Winnisquam Watershed Network

No update

Student Member Questions/Activities

E. DeFrancesco shared the outdoor environmental club at Belmont High School arranged an Earth Day trash clean up. Classes were assigned different streets to pick up litter at the end of their school day.

W. Riley spoke about an upcoming zoom Climate Summit that will take place on May 17th that will include how climate change affects military operations, the negative impact climate change has on water quality here in New Hampshire, and small changes people can make at home to help maintain water quality.

Community Outreach

J. DeFrancesco presented the idea of making a public Facebook page where the Conservation Commission can share upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. He emphasized that residents don't know what the conservation commission is working on unless they are seeking out the meeting minutes. Facebook would be a quick way to disseminate information and grow a following at no cost. The members were in agreement that a Facebook account was a good idea.

Other Business

D. Naiva shared that she wrote a letter regarding the 16 acre parcel on Depot Street and the 4 acres in the Currier-Sanborn property to Mr. and Mrs. Ellis thanking them for their consideration, but explaining that the Town is not in a position to purchase a property without a deed. However, she would be happy to revisit the idea in the future if a deed was presented.

D. Naiva stated she is waiting to hear back from Mr. Wuelper after leaving a message to see if he is still interested in donating his 2.2-acre parcel on Depot Street to the Conservation Commission.

A termination agreement between the Petersons and Vertex regarding the Mile Hill property was recorded at the Belknap County Registry of deeds. The next step towards land acquisition is to

hold a public hearing for feedback from the residents. A special meeting will be held for the public hearing on May 17th.

K. Santoro reported she is going to get in touch with R. Klemarczyk in the near future to get the Ladd Hill property tagging on his calendar and determine the cost.

R. Moreau and P. Tessier updated the Commission on Old Home Day. They spoke about raffle prizes, and asked what will be needed for a display. Several members offered folding tables, tents, and other props. K. Santoro and E. Stewart said they would be able to make laminated color posters to hang. D. Woodcock mentioned having calendars made that the Commission could sell at their booth.

D. Naiva shared that her and her husband planted a new tree at the Sanborn Farm to replace the one that had been girdled by the porcupine and placed wire mesh around it for protection. She also mentioned seeing phragmites, an invasive wetlands species that they have previously treated for.

T. Morrill returned to distribute flyers for his tree planting event that will be taking place on May 20th, and get some feedback on where he should be advertising for volunteers. Suggestions included getting high school students involved for community service hours, posting in town hall, and placing an ad in the local newspaper.

S. Ciampi introduced herself as the new Board of Selectmen representative that will be assigned to the Conservation Commission. She plans to attend all monthly meetings, and was welcomed by the members and staff.

Adjournment

On a motion made by J. Jordan and seconded by G. Lambert, the meeting adjourned at 7:35pm. All in favor (4-0).

Non-public Session

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

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk