



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, September 6, 2023
 Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room
 Belmont, NH

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Ed Stephenson; Members Pauline Tessier, Georgina Lambert (Zoom); Alternate Members Richard Moreau, Jeffrey DeFrancesco; Student Member Emilie DeFrancesco

Absent: Members Susan Irving, Jane Jordan; Alternate Member Deborah Woodcock; Sharon Ciampi, Ex-Officio

Staff: Rod Cameron, Land Use Technician; Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:17pm and appointed R. Moreau and J. DeFrancesco as voting members.

Minutes

E. Stephenson made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of August 2, 2023 as written. P. Tessier seconded the motion. All in favor (6-0).

P. Tessier made a motion to accept the minutes from the work day of August 26, 2023 as written. R. Moreau seconded the motion. All in favor (6-0).

Tioga Management Plan

R. Cameron distributed a cost analysis for three different parking lot configurations that ranged from \$10,681.78 to \$11,479.30. He shared that C. Clairmont with Department of Public Works did not think he would be able to take on the project and as a result the conservation commission would have to hire a private company to complete the work. Additionally, due to the location of the parking area on NH Route 140, a 5' paved driveway apron would be recommended to preserve the edge of the roadway and would require a state driveway permit. D. Naiva stated the commission does not have the funds to hire out and suggested applying for a grant. R. Cameron asked if any conservation properties would qualify for timber harvesting as a way to raise funds and D. Naiva said the Sanborn property would be eligible. D. Naiva commented that in lieu of doing the full parking lot, they may be able to fill some of the muddy spots with gravel to make it more manageable for the time being. The other members found that to be a reasonable solution.

P. Tessier passed around a list of future work days where the members could provide their availability to continue clearing the trail.

Budget/Expenditures

R. Cameron shared that K. Santoro, Town Planner and former Land Use Technician, was still managing the budget. D. Naiva requested that K. Santoro send her an update via email. There was no further discussion.

Silver Lake Association

P. Tessier read a letter she had written requesting \$3,000.00 towards herbicide treatment that was completed earlier in the Summer. The total cost of treatment was \$13,855. They received half the cost of treatment from the state and need to cover the remaining balance of \$6,927.50. About 75% of the treatment areas were on the Belmont side of the lake.

Winnisquam Watershed Network

E. Stephenson reported the last water testing for the year was completed at the end of August. The lake hosts inspecting boats and trailers at the public boat launch were able to catch a vessel carrying the invasive species, water chestnut. Lake Winnisquam does not currently have water chestnut so this was a great save for WWN.

Student Members Questions/Activities

E. DeFrancesco said her schoolmate was unable to locate the student member application on the town website, but is still interested in joining. E. Stewart said she will get them a copy of the application.

E. DeFrancesco passed around a card from the high school cross country team thanking the Conservation Commission for their work cleaning up the trails at the town forest.

Community Outreach

J. DeFrancesco shared their Facebook Page was up to 43 followers. He brought up a couple questions regarding the town's guidelines for using Facebook pages that represent municipal boards or commissions. Staff were unsure and told him they would confirm with the town planner.

Other Business

R. Cameron explained that he went to the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds to research the ownership history on the Wuelper property and was unable to locate any further information. He re-iterated that the Board of Selectmen were okay with receiving the property with a quitclaim deed. P. Tessier asked if there is any liability with accepting the property. D. Naiva said it was possible that someone could come forward in the future claiming ownership, and in the event that were to happen, the town would have to return the property to them.

E. Stephenson made a motion to pursue the Wuelper property with a quitclaim deed. R. Moreau seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued; P. Tessier requested the motion be amended to include that Mr. Wuelper would be responsible for preparing the new deed.

R. Moreau made a motion to accept the amendment. E. Stephenson seconded the motion. All in favor (6-0).

R. Cameron volunteered to make contact with Mr. Wuelper to initiate the land acquisition.

The members recounted Old Home Day to discuss what worked and what they would like to improve for next year. They agreed that the booth location was satisfactory. The raffle ticket sales resulted in \$317.00 being raised for the Jeff Marden Scholarship fund. The QR code that J. DeFrancesco created did not get utilized as much as they had hoped for. Next year they will plan to make it larger and post it in a different spot within the booth. D. Naiva claimed the seed packets she tossed during the parade were too light and did not travel well.

D. Naiva touched on the work day that took place at the Jeff Marden Town Forest the month prior. One of the takeaways was that the commission should obtain either a combination lock for the gate or a padlock with keys kept at both the town and the school. She brought up that they will need to schedule a couple more work days for trail maintenance. J. DeFrancesco mentioned once work days are scheduled the commission should reach out to the school to see if any students would want to volunteer for community service hours. D. Naiva asked the other members if they thought the trail markers should be re-painted. It was decided that was not a priority at this time. Other discussion entailed repair or replacement of the Jeff Marden Town Forest sign that is deteriorating, updating the informational pamphlets, kiosk maintenance, and having local businesses adopt a trail.

D. Naiva requested that staff update the members list.

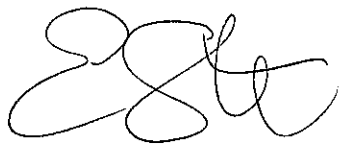
D. Naiva asked the members if they agreed to ask Ron Klemarczyk, forester, to update his management plan for the Andrew Sanborn property. Donna Hepp would apply for a grant to cover expenses.

On a motion made by P. Tessier, and seconded by E. Stephenson the meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Non-Public Session

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Stewart', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk