

# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, January 4, 2023  
Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom  
Belmont, NH

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Members Pauline Tessier, Susan Irving, Alternate Members Georgina Lambert, Richard Moreau, Deborah Woodcock (ZOOM); Student Members Emilie DeFrancesco, William Riley

Absent: Vice Chair Ed Stephenson; Members Jane Jordan, Keith Bennett; Ruth Mooney, Ex-Officio

Staff: Karen Santoro, Land Use Technician and Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk

Others: Donna Hepp, Belknap County Conservation District (ZOOM); Tyson Morrill, Restoration Project Manager, Merrimack River Watershed Council

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:08pm.  
D. Naiva seated G. Lambert and R. Moreau as voting members.

### Minutes

Meeting of December 7, 2022

G. Lambert made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

S. Irving seconded the motion.

Discussion: P. Tessier mentioned she was of the understanding that Mr. Stanley was not interested in selling to the commission in the past, but that he may reconsider now with the tax increase. The members agreed on the amendment.

All in favor of approving the minutes as amended, (5-0).

### Guest Speaker

Tyson Morrill, Restoration Project Manager, Merrimack River Watershed Council returned this month to discuss a federal grant for landscape restoration near waterways. The grant from the US Forest Service focuses on protecting the Merrimack River which is a drinking water source for many communities along the river. T. Morrill acknowledged the concern of local impact on drinking water, as most residents in the lakes region operate on private wells for a water source.

He stated the first step is for residents in rural areas is to make small changes on their properties that will directly affect the quality of water being distributed in bigger cities. The US Forest Service would like to establish a plan to remove invasives and plant native trees and shrubs. He provided literature of the Tioga River/Witcher Brook Shoreline Restoration which included a 3 phase plan and photos of qualifying landscape conditions.

T. Morrill states that their goal is to plant 9,000 trees on properties along the Merrimack River. The grant would cover the cost of the trees, project management, and also provide education for landowners on treatment of invasive species. They have spent the last 11 months figuring out the logistics of the project, and are aiming to make an order in the next month or so for seedlings from the state nursery.

D. Naiva asked if aquifers count for this type of project. T. Morrill states not directly, but that they will be affected through the reduction of runoff that results when plantings are established. The slower the runoff the more water that seeps into the aquifer.

D. Naiva and S. Irving brought up the concern of how the invasives will be removed. T. Morrill stated that because it is illegal to transport invasive plants, they would encourage landowners to dry them out on site and, possibly burn them once there is snow cover. They may spot treat the invasive species with herbicide, but as the native trees grow they will out shade the invasives. Funding sources are being identified for ongoing management of the invasive species.

#### **Tioga/Currier Sanborn Forest Management Plan**

D. Naiva reviewed the recommendations given on the forest management plan addendum provided by forester Ron Klemarczyk regarding glossy buckthorn treatment. The Commission has been advised to keep herbicides to a minimum, ensure a licensed applicator is used, and be mindful of the timing during removal. T. Morrill recommended conducting treatment in the Fall when the Glossy Buckthorn is absorbing nutrients. D. Hepp shared her experience with treatment at Gunstock where they cut and removed Glossy Buckthorn, then returned to treat in the late Fall.

D. Naiva explains the goal is not to eradicate, but focus on containing the affected areas to prevent it from spreading. D. Hepp shared her efforts to get on the student conservation association calendar for this summer.

D. Naiva presented a draft priority list for the management plan that outlines several preventative measures. The Commission discussed ways to improve the entrance on Depot Street, it is currently small and the parking area is not well designed. E. DeFrancesco mentioned including species identifying signage along the trails would add to the educational value. Several members were happy to volunteer their time with creating signage, or clearing brush from the trail and parking area. K. Santoro noted that the Commission should consult NH DOT regarding any work to widen the entrance to the parking area as it may fall within the DOT ROW.

#### **Budget/Expenditures**

K. Santoro shared that the 2023 proposed budget was present to the Budget Committee and there were no questions from the committee. The budget will be voted on in March.

D. Hepp leaves Zoom at 7:03pm

### **Silver Lake Association**

P. Tessier informed the Commission that at a recent Belknap County Commission meeting it was determined the funding for the dam study is not gone as originally thought but there are additional steps to take before they could receive it. P. Tessier collected the values of waterfront property in 6 of 10 towns in the Lakes Region. It was in excess of \$3 Billion which correlates to how many properties that will be affected by the dam study.

The Association has obtained estimates for herbicide treatment of the milfoil, \$18,750, and milfoil removal by divers, \$6,500, which the state will cover 50%.

### **Winnisquam Watershed Network**

E. Stephenson was not present in the meeting, but D. Naiva read the report from him aloud. The report detailed that two bids have been received for milfoil diving services and a grant is expected to cover half of the costs.

WWN has received final approval on a grant under the Clean Water Act to be applied to stormwater best management practices. Construction will start this Summer on three designated sites around the Lakes Region, but there are several priority sites in Belmont they wish to address in their next phase.

E. Stephenson noted that permits have been issued for the Anchorage project, and construction should begin this Spring.

### **Other Business**

There were no updates regarding the Sargent Fund.

D. Naiva spoke with the owner of the Wuelper property who expressed he would donate the land to the town. K. Santoro explained the calls the land use department has been receiving about the Wuelper property. The property is all wetland and would require both state and local permits to be developed.

The Commission reviewed the property evaluation checklist for the Ellis property, and found it met 3 out of 10 criteria. The property is for sale for \$80,000.

Motion: G. Lambert made a motion to table the topic until February's meeting to ensure time to determine suitability for possible future purchase.

S. Irving seconded the motion.

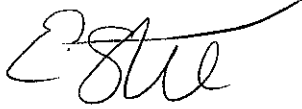
All in favor (5-0)

**Motion:** On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by S. Irving it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II at 7:45 pm (5-0).

### **Adjournment**

Motion: At 8:15 pm D. Naiva made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
G. Lambert seconded the motion.  
All in favor (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Stewart". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk