



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, October 4, 2023
Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room
Belmont, NH

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Ed Stephenson; Members Pauline Tessier and Georgina Lambert; Alternate Members Richard Moreau and Deb Woodcock; Ex-Officio Sharon Ciampi (Zoom)

Absent: Members Jane Jordan and Susan Irving; Alternate Member Jeffrey DeFrancesco; Student Member Emilie DeFrancesco

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

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:01pm and appointed R. Moreau as a voting member.

Minutes

P. Tessier made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of September 6, 2023 as written. G. Lambert seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

G. Lambert made a motion to accept the minutes from the work day of September 16, 2023 as written. E. Stephenson seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

Tioga Management Plan

P. Tessier recapped the work day on September 16th. Due to the type of litter left behind, the members decided going forward they should assemble a kit with gloves and sharps container to dispose of potentially hazardous materials. R. Cameron shared that the public works department is willing to spread gravel to remedy the muddy spots in the parking area, however they don't have the budget to supply the gravel and it will need to be sourced elsewhere. P. Tessier mentioned reaching out for some help from Pike Industries. D. Naiva said in the past they have donated gravel to fill in spots on trails. Other discussion included ways to dispose of brush and trimmings and installing a gate.

Budget/Expenditures

The budget hearing will be held in November, and the commission has requested a total of \$9,100. D. Naiva and town planner, Karen Santoro, will attend on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

On a motion made by E. Stephenson and seconded by G. Lambert, the members agreed to expend \$40 for their annual membership to the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition.

Silver Lake Association

P. Tessier provided the supporting documentation for their request for \$3,000 towards herbicide treatment. She reported the water level in Silver Lake will be lowered 18 inches. This started on Wednesday, October 4th. The level will be lowered 6 inches per day for three days.

Winnisquam Watershed Network

E. Stephenson shared that the upcoming weekend is the last for their lake hosts this year. Water testing is complete for the 2023 season.

Student Members Questions/Activities

E. DeFrancesco was not present. Staff reported no applications had been received for a second student member.

Community Outreach

J. DeFrancesco was not present to give an update on Facebook page.

D. Naiva voiced her idea of hiring a representative from the New Hampshire Wildlife Coalition to come give a presentation on Coyotes that would be open to the public. After some discussion, E. Stephenson made a motion to expend \$250 for a 1-hour presentation to be conducted at the November Conservation Commission meeting. G. Lambert seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

Other Business

R. Cameron shared that he had made contact with Mr. Wuelper regarding his donation of a 2.2 acre parcel of land to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Wuelper agreed to provide a quitclaim deed and it is in process. Once the deed is received, R. Cameron will have it recorded at the Belknap County Registry of Deeds.

R. Cameron distributed a new version of the Jeff Marden Town Forest trail map for the members to review. He had put in a call to the company that made the existing JMTF sign and had yet to hear back. D. Naiva had contacted the athletic director at Belmont High School to find out if the school was willing to help with some trail maintenance. She was happy to report they have conducted some trail clean up and no more work days will be needed this year.

D. Naiva reported D. Hepp has contacted forester, R. Klemarczyk, regarding the Andrew Sanborn property and Pops Woods. In 2013 he had determined a timber cut had potential earnings of up to \$5,000, but now the market has shifted the commission would likely not be profitable. D. Hepp had expressed they could provide a grant of \$1,800 towards harvesting.

R. Cameron had spoken with Prescott Towle regarding invasive control at the Sanborn property. P. Towle will conduct the work in the Spring. Former member, K. Bennett, recently completed his annual mowing and reported to D. Naiva that he did notice Autumn Olive while at the property.

D. Naiva relayed that on September 9th, herself, R. Moreau, and S. Rolfe evaluated the Bean Dam property. S. Rolfe had previously expressed concern of ATVs being used. They have been accessing the property from one of the vacant building lots. It was in question whether or not the property had been

surveyed at any point so the boundaries could be determined. The shape of the conservation area weaves between several building lots making it hard to differentiate where it starts and stops. Staff agreed to search the property records to see if a survey is on file.

New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions will hold their annual conference on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at Pembroke Academy. Members will be reimbursed for registration fees.

A public forum on Current Use will be held in Concord on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. D. Naiva plans to attend and will update the members afterward.

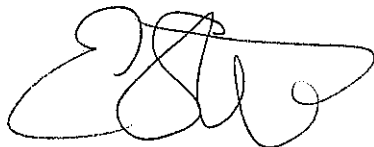
Adjournment

On a motion made by G. Lambert, and seconded by R. Moreau, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Non-Public Session

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

Respectfully,

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

Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk