



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom
Belmont, NH

Present: Vice Chair Ed Stephenson (Zoom); Members Pauline Tessier, Georgina Lambert; Alternate Members Richard Moreau, Deborah Woodcock, Jeff DeFrancesco; Ex-Officio Sharon Ciampi; Student Members Emilie DeFrancesco, Emerson Decato

Absent: Chair Denise Naiva, Members Susan Irving, Jane Jordan

Staff: Roderick Cameron, Land Use Technician and Jenn Thomas, Land Use Clerk

P. Tessier opened the meeting at 6:00pm, however, due to the number of members present, it was determined a quorum was not met. Meeting reverted to a note taking of presentations.

Guest Speakers/Presentations:

Health Impacts of Climate Change presented by Robert Dewey, MD, Vice Chair, NH Climate Health

R. Cameron introduced Robert Dewey, MD, Vice Chair from NH Climate Health.

R. Dewey presented to the Conservation Commission the health impacts of climate change and how it effects New Hampshire. Dr. Dewey explained the various impacts that affect climate change such as the air quality, extreme weather, mental health, mosquitos and ticks, mortality rates and global warming. He stated that 70 to 75% of New Hampshire residents are concerned about climate change in the State of New Hampshire. More information can be found regarding the climate affects by visiting nhclimatehealth.org.

Tioga Floodplain Tree Planting Project presented by Tyson Morrill, Project Manager, Merrimack River Watershed Council

R. Cameron introduced Tyson Morrill, Merrimack River Watershed Council

T. Morrill provided an update to the South Road, Corliss farmland where farm fields that are over the protected aquafer, meet the Tioga River. He advised that the NH Conservation Districts

Climate Resilience Grant began with the application of herbicide needed for tree planting which was completed on May 20, 2023. Approximately 300 live stake cuttings were planted as well as 3,000 seedlings for a total of 3,590 plants along a one-mile span. T. Morrill will go back out in the spring to check the progress.

Eversource J125 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project presented by Conor Madison, CPESC, CESSWI, GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc & Eversource Energy

R. Cameron introduced Conor Madison, GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc & Eversource Energy

C. Madison opened with advising of an upcoming dredge and fill/wetlands application to be received by the Town of Belmont Land Use/Building Department. C. Madison said the transmission line, called the J125, runs from Franklin to the Laconia substation. C. Madison stated that the current utility poles are a laminate structure, they have been cracking due to insects & water leakage. C. Madison added that they are due to replace 140 utility poles and 42 of them will be in Belmont, mostly in the Silver Lake Campground area to Route 3. The new structures will be made of steel and of similar height (2ft difference). C. Madison also said that there is a restriction from NH Fish and Game & due to common loons in the area, that work is not permitted from May 1 to August 15 on structure 99 through 102.

G. Lambert asked if clarity could be given as to what the steel structures are made of. C. Madison advised that the new poles are 3 or 4 feet in diameter, 75 feet above ground, rusted brown, one pole sticking out of the ground and with 2 arms on the side.

R. Cameron advised the Conservation Commission that Susan Irving is stepping down as member & Deborah Woodcock will be submitting a completed application to the Selectman for review.

At 8:00pm P. Tessier made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully,

Jenn Thomas

Jenn Thomas, Land Use Clerk