



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom
Belmont, NH

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Ed Stephenson; Members Pauline Tessier, Jane Jordan; Alternate Members Richard Moreau, Jeff DeFrancesco; Ex-Officio Sharon Ciampi; Student Members Emilie DeFrancesco (Zoom)

Absent: Member Georgina Lambert; Deb Woodcock; Student Member: Emerson Decato

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

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:04 pm & approved R. Moreau as a voting member on behalf of G. Lamberts absence.

D. Naiva requested that staff update the members list.

D. Naiva requested that the membership review the Monitoring Report document and to bring recommendations for changes to our next meeting.

Election of Officers:

P. Tessier nominated D. Naiva for the position of Chairman of the Conservation Commission. J. Jordan seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. All in favor (4-0).

D. Naiva nominated P. Tessier for the position of Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission. E. Stephenson seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. All in favor (4-0).

Membership:

D. Naiva reported that she is waiting to hear back from the Selectboard once they meet on April 24th, 2024 in regards to Deborah Woodcock's membership. If approved, there will be an open alternate position on the Conservation Commission.

Minutes:

D. Naiva had a correction that page 2 of the March 6, 2024 minutes should have read Prescott Towle & that the memo on the February 7, 2024 read as January 7, 2024.

P. Tessier made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of March 6, 2024 as amended. S. Ciampi seconded the motion. All in favor (4-0).

D. Naiva reviewed a draft of a proposed Land Steward roles. There was discussion regarding whether members of the public could serve as land stewards. It was agreed that the currently most used properties will have BCC members as land stewards and other less used properties will be evaluated annually to determine the need for a land steward. The revised draft was approved by the membership (see attached) and will be included in the BCC Rules of Administrative Procedure.

Conserved Properties Steward Assignments:

Town Forest – J. DeFrancesco
Tioga/Currier-Sanborn – P. Tessier & J. Jordan
Andrew Sanborn Farm – D.Naiva
Mile Hill Properties – G.Lambert
Bean Dam – R.Moreau

Budget/Expenditures:

D. Naiva advised the commission that because the Town budget did not get passed, that we are operating in a default budget status with a \$1,600.00 general operation fund.

Discussion ensued on the budget & how its affected Old Home Day. D. Naiva asked if all would like to have a booth should a block party be done in lieu of Old Home Day. J. DeFrancesco recommended changing the BioBlitz to the 10th of August to engage more families/children.

D. Naiva added that priorities such as signage & remediation for invasive species are important.

R. Cameron to check with the builder of the Town Forrest & Tioga Wildlife and Conservation Area signs for an evaluation and what can be done to preserve them.

Silver Lake Association:

P. Tessier has been invited to speak at a conference in Meredith on June 6th, 2024. Silver Lake is the only lake in the state of New Hampshire to have a no wake zone.

Winnisquam Watershed Network:

E. Stephenson added that the milfoil treatment had been started in the fall.

Student Members Questions/Activities:

E. DeFrancesco stated she knows a current freshman who may be interested in joining the Conservation Commission & she will reach out and see if student is interested.

Community Outreach:

J. DeFrancesco shared that the Facebook page is growing & up to 53 people & that it is gaining traction with other organizations.

J. DeFrancesco stated that the Town of Belmont Library is willing to pay for the Open World Explorers, slide show presentation on bird watching. Will need to come up with a day to do, preferably a Tuesday – Thursday.

On a motion made by J. Jordan, and seconded by E. Stephenson the meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Non-public Session

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

Respectfully,

Jenn Thomas

Jenn Thomas, Land Use Clerk

Belmont Conservation Commission

Land Steward Roles

Land Stewards are appointed by and report to the Commission.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Assist with property inventory, priorities, assessment and management plans.
- Determine frequency of property evaluation visits based on public use, possible impacts and land characteristics.
- Notify Conservation Commission members via email of projected visit dates (3 or less members may attend a work day/visit without a formal meeting notification).
- Record evaluation findings using the Belmont Conservation Commission monitoring form (paper or electronic) and file report (and pictures if applicable) to the Land Use Technician.
- Email a copy of the report to each Commission member.
- Report findings to the full Commission at the next scheduled meeting.
- Assist with planning and taking part in work parties, as needed.
- Assist with training and supervision of volunteers during public involvement days, as needed.
- Serve as a Commission representative and liaison with the public.