



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

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

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Ed Stephenson (Zoom at 6:15 pm); Members Pauline Tessier, Susan Irving (6:03 pm), Deborah Woodcock; Alternate Members Georgina Lambert, Richard Moreau; Student Member Emilie DeFrancesco (6:06 pm)

Absent: Member Jane Jordan; Ruth Mooney, Ex-Officio; Student Member William Riley

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

Others: John Peterson, Abigail Clark

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

### Minutes

Meeting of January 4, 2023

P. Tessier made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. G. Lambert seconded the motion. D. Naiva commented that the minutes did not document the roll call to seal the non-public session minutes, and to come out of non-public session. All in favor of accepting the minutes with this amendment, (5-0).

### Member Resignation

D. Naiva shared that K. Bennett has resigned from the Conservation Commission, but will continue his work at the Sanborn property. K. Bennett sent a resignation letter to the Board of Selectmen. Once approved, there will be an opening for a full-time member. The vacant position would become available to the senior alternate member, being G. Lambert.

### Tioga Management Plan

D. Naiva stated she has been in touch with R. Klemarczyk, Forester, regarding the invasives addendum and asked if he can create a map showing glossy buckthorn target areas to provide to

the management team. D. Naiva also requested including the priority list on the management plan. The updated version references placing cameras to capture wildlife images.

### **Budget/Expenditures**

D. Naiva reported the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen approved the requested 2023 budget of \$16,873.79, including \$1,500.00 for a special project. The proposed budget will be voted on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Silver Lake Association**

P. Tessier shared a milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed management plan from NH Department of Environmental Services. She raised the concern it entails a second herbicide treatment in 2024, and it may be challenging to fund. Upon inquiry, a representative explained it is possible one treatment may be satisfactory, if not, a second treatment would be needed the following year.

P. Tessier mentioned NH DES will be hosting a public meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6pm in the Belmont Mill to discuss control of waterflow in the lakes.

### **Winnisquam Watershed Network**

E. Stephenson explained WWN is planning to conduct dive assisted milfoil removal next year for Lake Winnisquam, and that a close watch is being kept on the progress of the preserve to ensure compliance with Department of Environmental Services and Environmental Protection Agency. E. Stephenson went on to say WWN has received approval for a grant from both agencies to assist with pollution from tributaries.

### **Other Business**

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, D. Naiva and P. Tessier joined several volunteers and a team from the Merrimack Watershed Council to conduct removal of invasives on a farm property that abuts the Tioga River. The next phase will include applying herbicide to the remaining stumps, and eventually planting native species along the river.

The staff informed the Commission about a visit at Town Hall from a couple claiming to have purchased the 2.2 acre Depot Street (Wuelper) property. To date, no transfer of title has been recorded at the registry of deeds.

The Commission completed a site visit to the Ellis property, and provided the owner a copy of the evaluation checklist. There has been no further communication. D. Woodcock suggested checking in with him before the next meeting.

The owner of an 89 acre property on Mile Hill Road, J. Peterson has agreed to sell the two parcels to the Conservation Commission for \$218,000. The property is part of a 5-year contract with a company that manages cell towers. J. Peterson stated he has always allowed recreation on the property, and indicated both hunters and snowmobilers have been respectful of the land with

regards to littering and impact on wildlife. No invasives have been noticed on the property, and there are an abundance of red oak and maples.

The members brainstormed ideas for the Conservation Commission booth at old home day. D. Naiva mentioned a raffle, and is going to check in with the Parks and Recreation Department to see if that acceptable.

Per the voter's guide, the Sargent Fund was approved for \$100.

**Non-public Session**

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

**Adjourn**

At 7:17 pm G. Lambert made a motion to adjourn. S. Irving seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

Respectfully,

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

Elizabeth Stewart, Land Use Clerk