



CONSERVATION COMMISSION TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, April 7, 2021
Remotely by Zoom
Belmont, New Hampshire

Zoom: Chairman Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Scott Rolfe; Members Ed Stephenson, Jane Jordan and Keith Bennett; Student Members Ella Irving and Christopher Paré.
Absent: Members Terry Threlfall, Jr. and Claude Patten, Ex-Officio.
Staff: Rick Ball and Colleen Akerman.

D. Naiva called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and welcomed those in attendance. She announced that as Chairman of the Conservation Commission, she finds that due to the state of emergency declared by the governor, this public body is authorized to meet using electronic means. She said that the Commission gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting using Zoom or telephone, and she announced that any party experiencing any difficulty in accessing the meeting at any point, should call 603-267-8300 xt. 125, and the meeting will be recessed until access can be restored for all parties.

The Chairman held a roll call attendance:
Denise Naiva.
Scott Rolfe.
Ed Stephenson.
Keith Bennett.
Jane Jordan.
Rick Ball, Land Use Technician.
Colleen Akerman, Building & Land Use Clerk.
Ella Irving.
Chris Paré.

Board's Action – Minutes 3/03/2021:

MOTION: E. Stephenson moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2021.

The motion was seconded by J. Jordan and carried on a roll call vote by D. Naiva, S. Rolfe, E. Stephenson, K. Bennett, and J. Jordan. (5-0)

D. Naiva clarified that Paul Schmidt passed on February 3rd.

NH Department of Environmental Services Applications:

1. Rosalinda Sweeney – Tucker Shore Road – Map/Lot 107-026-000-000: Expedited minimum application under technical review to create a 4' x 45' raised wooden boardwalk to access the canal,

seasonal dock and act as the anchoring structure to the 4' x 16' seasonal dock.

2. **Robert Thomas – 150 Gardners Grove Road – Map/Lot 120-018-000-000:** Seasonal Dock Permit by Notification 6' x 30'.

Current Planning Board/ZBA Applications:

1. Planning Board 03/22/2021 –

- a. **106 Realty Trust – 40 Old State Road – Map/Lot 201-003-000-000:** The Board approved a site plan request to develop the site with self-storage units.

2. Zoning Board – 03/24/2021:

- a. **Fay Family Trust – 113 Tucker Shore Road – Map/Lot 107-018-000-000:** The Board denied a request for a variance of Article 5 Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance (dimensional requirements) to add a second story closer (17.3') to the front property line than allowed (50').
- b. **David & LeeAnn Ellis – 17 Holiday Lane – Map/Lot 121-052-000-000:** The Board approved a request for a Special Exception of Article 11.A.3.d of the Zoning Ordinance to replace an existing manufactured home closer (17.1') to the front property line than allowed (50') but not closer than the existing unit.
- c. **David & Cassie Smith – 13 Gilman Shore Road – Map/Lot 111-065-000-000:** The Board approved a Variance of Article 5 Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance to construct a porch closer (34.45') to the front property line than allowed (50') and a Special Exception of Article 11.A.3.c of the Zoning Ordinance to add a second story closer (39.83') to the front property line than allowed (50').
- d. **Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless – 73 Bishop Road – Map/Lot 205-009-000-000:** The Board tabled a request to construct a wireless communication facility with a monopole structure.

ARC – 03/18/2021:

- a. **Richard Page – 284 Laconia Road – Map/Lot 210-002-000-000:** Review for operation of interior hardwood lumber sales and on-site milling services and exterior lumber sawing, recreational vehicle storage and lumber storage.
- b. **Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless – 73 Bishop Road – Map/Lot 205-009-000-000:** Review for installation of a personal wireless service facility monopole with accessory ground equipment, including a diesel fueled stand-by generator.
- c. **106 Realty Trust – 36 & 26 Laconia Road – Map/Lots 205-050-000-000, 205-051-000-000 and 205-052-000-000:** Review for change in configuration of previously approved self-storage facility.

Projects:

1. **Tioga Marsh Conservation Area – National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant:** D. Naiva informed the Commission that a grant application was submitted for the Tioga River and Currier Sanborn properties as was discussed at the March meeting. The application is due next week. R. Ball said a proposal for forestry management was submitted by Ron Klemarczyk for both properties. R. Ball also asked for a controlled burn and they are going to add in brush hogging for 25 acres of glossy buckthorn.
2. **Community Outreach:** D. Naiva said emails have been sent to Commission members from residents about the Recreation Department not receiving an operating budget for this year. They would like to know if the Commission can partner with them to work on a program to engage the community; based on interests, age groups, etc. D. Naiva also mentioned that the UNH Cooperative Extension is offering a BioBlitz (scavenger hunt) and is proposing organized identification walks for communities throughout New Hampshire in September. They are providing the tools to engage the community. D. Naiva suggested dovetailing things together rather than reinventing the wheel for community outreach. The Commission also has Amelia Kaufhold of the Belknap County Conservation District to help work

on outreach programs. D. Naiva had someone on the Belmont Community FaceBook page who is part of the Belmont Elementary School PTO reach out to talk about some programs. She will report back to the Commission about what is discussed. S. Rolfe asked where will we be with COVID and what will be acceptable for group gatherings. The Commission will discuss Community Outreach more at future meetings.

3. **Old Home Day:** D. Naiva reported Old Home Day is scheduled for August 14th. She is looking for anyone who is interested in working with her on a display to have that day. It is important for community outreach to get the Commission out there and communicate with the public and have demonstrations. Some fun things could be done and invasive species samples can be shown. J. Jordan and E. Stephenson offered their help. S. Rolfe will not be available, but offered logistical items such as a canopy and chairs. Volunteers will be needed to man the booth and take shifts. D. Naiva noted that it is also a good format to highlight what is being done on Winnisquam and Silver Lake, and to highlight conservation properties. Our student members may have ideas to engage younger people.
4. **Property Inspections:** D. Naiva reminded members that the Commission likes to inspect properties once a year to check for damage, such as downed trees, etc. S. Rolfe announced that he inspected the Town Forest on his way home this evening. There was a tree down but someone cleared it out of the way. The wet junction that had to be built up needs to be cleaned up. Members can choose a property and walk the trails in the near future and do a report. D. Naiva said there is a checklist that can be used when visiting properties. Staff will email the checklist to members. J. Jordan volunteered to inspect the Currier-Sanborn property but will need some guidance. R. Ball will coordinate with J. Jordan. K. Bennett will keep an eye on the Sanborn Farm and Pop's Woods. D. Naiva said she hopes to walk the Sanborn Farm with K. Bennett soon.
5. **Jeff Marden Scholarship:** R. Ball said he reported on the fund balance at last month's meeting and the Commission needs to decide if they want to issue a scholarship this year. There was discussion about incoming applications. R. Ball explained that the Commission does not see the applications until Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation's Donor Day. He can check ahead of time to see if anyone has applied.
6. **Winnisquam Watershed Network:** E. Stephenson said they have an intern who is working on a watershed management plan. They have received a Moose Plant Grant and a grant from another group. They are making progress and aim to do the Lake Host inspections at the boat launch 7 days a week this year. E. Stephenson will email members with information about an upcoming class in May. There was discussion about the potential loss of Ahern State Park on Winnisquam, if it is included in the sale of the Laconia State School property.
7. **NHACC Invasive Species Luncheon:** D. Naiva attended the luncheon and learned some interesting things about how climate change is going to encourage the possibility of more invasive species moving north. We have been considered Zone 4, but will change to Zone 5 or 6 within 20 years. There is a better understanding of species that are not yet invasives, but have the potential to become invasives, such as ginkgo vine and periwinkle. It was a good workshop. There will be a video of the presentation and D. Naiva will email it to members.
8. **Saving Special Places:** D. Naiva asked if anyone has signed up yet but no one has. S. Rolfe asked if there is interest from the student members. The Commission would pay the fees. D. Naiva said she hopes the student members would take advantage next year when the event will be live again

Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info:

Newsletter Articles: There was discussion about the recent Commission newsletter article which spotlighted the Amherst, NH Conservation Commission. They are proposing a \$6 million bond for an open space warrant article to purchase conservation land to protect natural resources. Their area is being inundated with development and they are trying to make up for it. D. Naiva pointed out that it shows how

aggressive Belmont has been to look forward and acquire properties and use funds appropriately.

Open Space: The Commission declined to engage in negotiations for a property offered to the Commission. Research was completed on the property and there are no threats present. The property does not appear to meet any of the standards for conservation importance. It is unremarkable and does not fit with the Commission's priorities, and it is not contiguous to any other Commission properties.

Safety Zone Signs: K. Bennett asked about placing the signs around his property with R. Ball. A tentative date of 04/16/2021 was set and will be confirmed by email.

Budget/Expenditures:

New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission Dues: R. Ball reported that the amount withdrawn for the dues at the last meeting was short by \$25.

MOTION: E. Stephenson moved to withdraw \$25 from the Conservation Fund for the following:
a. Annual dues to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

The motion was seconded by J. Jordan and carried on a roll call vote by D. Naiva, S. Rolfe, E. Stephenson, K. Bennett, and J. Jordan. (5-0)

Elections:

It was the consensus of the Commission to postpone elections until all members are in attendance at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: It was the consensus of the Commission to hold the next meeting on May 5, 2021. As the meeting date gets closer, a determination on whether the meeting will be held remote only, or in-person and remote will be made. This will allow for a review of the trend of COVID numbers and immunizations.

Adjournment:

MOTION: K. Bennett moved to adjourn at 6:43 pm.

The motion was seconded by E. Stephenson and carried on a roll call vote by D. Naiva, S. Rolfe, E. Stephenson, K. Bennett, and J. Jordan. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Akerman
Building and Land Use Clerk