



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom  
Belmont, New Hampshire

Present: Chairman Scott Rolfe; Members Denise Naiva, Ed Stephenson, Keith Bennett and Jane Jordan.  
Absent: Vice Chair Terry Threlfall, Jr.; Member Ruth Mooney, Ex-Officio; Student Members Christopher Paré and Ella Irving.  
Staff: Rick Ball and Colleen Akerman.  
Zoom: None.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:03 pm and welcomed those in attendance.

## **Board's Action – Minutes 08/04/2021:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by K. Bennett, seconded by E. Stephenson, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 4, 2021 with an amendment to the Andrew Sanborn Farm discussion on page 4: “There were many invasive species...” in place of “There are many invasive species ...”. (5-0)

## **NH Department of Environmental Services Applications:**

- 1. Michael Klement – 694 Union Road – Map/Lot 222-053-000-000:** Standard Dredge & Fill Application under technical review to temporarily impact 900sf to connect into the sewer as well as retain 1,720sf of fill for access between two residences.
- 2. Jeffrey Deardorff – 6 Rodin Road – Map/Lot 111-055-000-000:** Shoreland Standard Permit approved to impact 8,500sf of protected shoreland to repair deck, install impervious walkways and patios, construct garage and addition to the primary structure, expand driveway and parking, and construct required storm collection and conveyance system and a bio-retention basin.
- 3. Jennifer Bouchard – 76 Sunset Drive – Map/Lot 107-150-000-004:** Wetland PBN complete to impact 57sf along 57 linear feet of bank to repair existing retaining wall on frontage along Winnisquam Lake. A Shoreland Standard Permit is also under technical review for redevelopment/expansion of an existing nonconforming structure within the waterfront buffer zone.
- 4. Maria Cantor – 74 Sunset Drive – Map/Lot 107-150-000-003:** Wetland PBN under technical review to repair 57 linear feet of existing dry set stone retaining wall along Winnisquam Lake during lake draw down.
- 5. Jack Tran, et al - 12 Nancy Drive – Map/Lot 107-085-000-000:** R. Ball said there was lots of excavation on the shore of the lake at this property. He talked with the owners and they completely skimmed the lot and proposed putting down sod, and they built a retaining wall out of wetlands jurisdiction. It is still in protected shoreland. He advised the owners they need a permit. A letter has been sent advising them to keep the Land Use Office informed of progress. R. Ball will file a

complaint if there is no response

### **Current Planning Board/ZBA/ARC Applications:**

#### **1. Planning Board 08/23/2021–**

- a. **Pike Industries – 246 Depot Street – Map/Lot 236-011-000-000:** The Board found the five-year compliance application substantially complete and in conformance.
- b. **Raed Hertel Family Trust – Jamestown Road – Map/Lot 118-016-000-000:** The Board denied without prejudice, a 7-lot subdivision application because the applicant/representative failed to appear at a previous meeting and did not provide required fees and envelopes for additional abutter notifications.
- c. **Richard Page – 284 Laconia Road – Map/Lot 210-002-000-000:** The Board approved a site plan application for exterior boat storage (Special Exception required from ZBA), RV and vehicle storage, continued use of the contractor's yard, and exterior portable sawmill and lumber milling.
- d. **Schumacher Properties – 19 Field Lane – Map/Lot 245-006-000-000:** The Board approved a site plan application to construct an 80' x 72' building expansion for light manufacturing.

#### **2. Zoning Board – 08/25/2021:**

- a. **Jennifer & Christopher Gagnon – 141 Plummer Hill Road – Map/Lot 211-023-000-000:** The Board granted a request for a Special Exception of Article 5, Table 1 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow an accessory apartment in the RS zone.

#### **3. ARC – No August Meeting**

### **Projects:**

#### **1. Belmont Old Home Day 08/14/2021:**

D. Naiva reported it was a very hot day and then it rained at 2 pm. They met new people and reconnected with people from over the years. There were good questions asked about the displays. Ms. Pauline Tessier volunteered until 2 pm and did a good job of bringing displays of milfoil and another aquatic weed. They were displayed in bags with water. \$231.00 was raised for the Jeff Marden Scholarship Fund. Three applications were submitted for Alternate Conservation Commission memberships. R. Ball said the Selectmen are reviewing the applications.

#### **2. National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Conditional Award Notification – Project # 73121:**

R. Ball explained that this was a project spearheaded by Ms. Donna Hepp. A lot of it was geared towards brook trout habitat. He is not sure how much will come to the Tioga River Wildlife & Conservation Area. There was money included for Glossy Buckthorn removal. The Commission may have an opportunity with the Winni Trail to contribute towards a mower the Department of Public Works is going to buy. It would give the Town some dedicated equipment for trail mowing.

#### **3. Work Day 2021:**

R. Ball suggested members think about some projects for a work day session. S. Rolfe mentioned the Jeff Marden Town Forest (JMFTF) trail gets lots of use and could probably use some pruning. D. Naiva noted that someone else has been doing some maintenance in there. J. Jordan asked how the day is organized. S. Rolfe said a property is selected and a date picked. It is mostly Commission members, but sometimes it is posted for volunteers as well.

D. Naiva asked how the Andrew Sanborn Farm (ASF) property is. K. Bennett reported the trails are growing in. He is going to cut the field Friday and mow the main trail from the gate to the field. He can mow the main trail but not the other trails. There are some trees down, but people and horses can walk over them. D. Naiva inquired about the horse manure situation. K. Bennett said it is not any better

than last year. The trail is rocky towards Middle Route and the horses are using the left side of the trail going up. It is not fit for mountain biking or walking; someone could roll an ankle in the bad spots. D. Naiva asked if the person hired to mow the property could drag the trail and try to flatten it a little. K. Bennett commented that would make it more attractive for walking and biking. K. Bennett observed there are some Autumn Olive patches; he can provide coordinates for them to R. Ball. R. Ball said he will call to have it treated. K. Bennett said everything else looked good. There is no trash or broken glass and the sign is in good shape.

D. Naiva said she will take a look at the JMTF to consider for a work day.

**Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info:**

Mr. Kevin Sturgeon was in attendance and asked about the third bridge for the Village Trail. R. Ball reported that it was estimated to cost about \$200,000.00 and he was told to cease working on the project. It may be possible to apply for a grant in the future.

**Budget/Expenditures:**

**MOTION:** S. Rolfe moved to withdraw \$469.82 from the Conservation Fund for the following:

- \$119.82 for Old Home Day Booth expenses
- \$350.00 for dead ash tree removal from the Stonington Open Space land near the Lakes Region Mobile Home Co-Op, so that it does not damage a home

The motion was seconded by K. Bennett and carried. (5-0)

**Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN) – Lake Host Program:**

E. Stephenson updated the Commission with a report on the Lake Host Program facilitated by the WWN. The program will continue to run on weekends until Columbus Day. The lake has been very busy. Lake Hosts have inspected 3,613 boats. This year they found two water chestnuts on a boat trailer. So far, there are no water chestnuts on Lake Winnisquam, so this was an important find. It has been two years since the lake had any water chestnuts. He asked if the Commission would be willing to contribute to the Lake Host program because it will not be contributing to milfoil treatment on the lake. The Lake Host program is estimated to cost \$12,000.00 this year. There was discussion about dues for the WWN and how they are used. E. Stephenson reported the State of NH and the EPA are doing the bulk of the funding for the watershed study, but dues help to cover the Lake Host Program and the intern who is working on the study. Jay's Marina donated \$1,000.00 and Winnisquam Marine donated \$500.00. D. Naiva asked if they are expecting any funding for milfoil treatment. E. Stephenson replied they are not. The only milfoil treatment in Belmont this year was part of the rock pile. Ephraim's Cove was clean. They are hoping to get through the year with no real milfoil issues. J. Jordan asked if other Towns can be asked to contribute. E. Stephenson stated that other Towns have committed to sending money for the Lake Host Program, the intern expenses, and future milfoil expenses.

**MOTION:** D. Naiva moved to withdraw \$500.00 from the Conservation Fund for the WWN's Lake Host Program.

K. Bennett suggested \$400.00.

D. Naiva withdrew her motion. No further action on this motion.

**MOTION:** K. Bennett moved to withdraw \$400.00 from the Conservation Fund for the WWN's Lake

Host Program.

The motion was seconded by J. Jordan and carried. (5-0)

**Village Spur Trail:**

D. Naiva asked about the “Stay on the Trail” signs. R. Ball said he will be going out with the Building & Grounds crew soon to install them.

**Volunteer Recognition Day:**

D. Naiva informed the Commission that Ms. Donna Hepp is encouraging Commission members to attend the Volunteer Recognition Day because they want to recognize volunteers. All of the Commission members are volunteers. There is a brunch, t-shirts, job fair, and a free chairlift ride to the top of Gunstock. The event is September 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 or 10 am. Members were sent an email with the details and a link to sign up.

**Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II (d):**

**MOTION:** On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by K. Bennett, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to enter Non-Public session at 6:40 pm for the purposes of discussing the acquisition, sale, or lease of land in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (d). (5-0)

Also present were Rick Ball and Colleen Akerman.

**BEGIN NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

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**END NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

The Commission returned to public session at 6:56 pm.

No action was taken while in Non-Public session.

**MOTION:** On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by J. Jordan, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to seal the minutes of the Non-Public session. The minutes will remain sealed until such time the Commission acts to find the matter discussed is concluded. (5-0)

**Next Meeting:**

It was the consensus of the Commission to hold the next regular meeting on October 6, 2021.

**Daniel Ladd Farm Property – Ladd Hill Road – Map/Lot 102-020-000-000:**

R. Ball explained that the surveyor was unable to complete the job. He wanted to mark the boundary which runs through a field. The neighbor has a fruit tree over the boundary and it would be best to have it marked out. Does the Commission want to consider putting in parking and a trail along the woods? S. Rolfe said he has not been on the property. Will a trail have to be built? Is there a place to pull off the road? What is the destination? R. Ball recommended it would be good to do a meeting at the property so everyone can view it. It was the consensus of the Commission to meet at the property at 10 am on Saturday, October 2, 2021.

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by J. Jordan, seconded by K. Bennett, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at

7:10 pm. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Akerman  
Building and Land Use Clerk