

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, April 2, 2008
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present: Chairman K. Knowlton, N. Wederski, S. Rolfe,
D. Naiva, G. Wells-Kay
Members Absent: W. Peterson(u), J. Pike(u)
Alternates Present: M. Lewandoski, M. McLetchie
Staff: C. Daigle, R. Ball, D. Rollins

Chairman Knowlton opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. He appointed M. McLetchie as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, it was voted to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2008 meeting as written. (5-0) N. Wederski abstained.

EARTH EXCAVATION REGULATIONS:

C. Daigle told the members that they took the state model and melded it with the administrative process from the town's site plan regulations. There have been changes made since the members received their copies and more editing will be done. These regulations specify how the Planning Board will review new earth excavation applications and set up a rotating process of all pits currently in Belmont. This will get everyone into a cycle and every pit will need to comply. There will be references to the Aquifer Ordinance. K. Knowlton asked about fueling activity in the pit. C. Daigle said they will be required to have a compacted pad which allows them to capture it. He also asked a question about Pike's wash plant, if the water is filtered or not. She said they capture what comes off and reuse it. Most of the water gets recycled. C. Daigle said that they will continue to work on the regulations then they will be sent to the Planning Board. This will make the local town become the local regulators. They do have the ability on new pits to add conditions. They need to get the grandfathered pits in line

for security.

M. McLetchie felt that the regulations should include residential development. He has seen housing lots with erosion problems. He also is concerned with the pits that drag their materials onto the highway. C. Daigle said they are required to put in construction entrances.

M. McLetchie asked about the abandoned pits in Belmont. C. Daigle said that they have naturally reclaimed themselves. Not one in the community doesn't meet state standards. Two years of inactivity requires them to be reclaimed. They want to see warm season grasses put down and don't recommend spreading loam. The majority of the initial growth occurs underground and takes several seasons to see substantial growth on the ground. The side slopes need to be stabilized with no overhangs.

STAFF REPORT:

JOINT BOARD MEETING:

There will be a meeting with all the boards on Monday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. The new members will be introduced. They will be able to discuss long term goals and let each other know what they are doing this upcoming year.

BUDGET:

R. Ball told the members that there is approximately \$400,000 in the Conservation Fund. Out of this year's operating budget all that has been spent so far is \$250 out of the general expense line.

PROPOSALS FOR WETLANDS STUDY:

R. Ball said that he has received 3 proposals for the wetlands study. Blue Moon Environmental quoted a price of \$37,000 to do the study. Stony Ridge's price is \$11,780 and Watershed to Wildlife's price is \$11,620. He has copies of the proposals and would like the members to look them over. He said they can pay with the \$6,000 budgeted for it this year and take the rest out of the Conservation Fund which they can pay back next year when they request the \$6,000 balance. The members decided that they will make a decision at the next meeting on who they would like to do the study.

WHIP FUNDS:

R. Ball said that they will be receiving \$12,719 from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. It will be used to fix the town forest trail to get the trail stabilized. The members discussed having a bridge built also. They decided that the money would be used for stabilizing the spillway first and if there is any left they can put it into the bridge.

OTHER BUSINESS:

FUNDS:

G. Wells-Kay asked if the Conservation Commission could solicit funds from local businesses to purchase land. They were told that according to the town attorney they could do this but would have to get the Board of Selectmen's approval to accept the money.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

The members discussed whether they should have another retreat this year to discuss their projects and goals for the upcoming year. They decided that instead of a retreat they will do this at their next meeting on May 7 and will schedule a work session. They will prioritize their projects and do a plan. D. Naiva will do an agenda for the next meeting for this work session.

BEAN DAM:

Chairman Knowlton told the members that he has spoken with Mr. Locke. He would like to have either K. Knowlton or R. Ball to attend the next meeting he has with DES. DES has told him that he needs to have a plan to breach the dam and he has still not done that. The members discussed asking Mr. Locke if he cut his price then the Commission could do it instead. It was decided that K. Knowlton will talk to Mr. Locke about this since the members would like to get moving on this purchase.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 8:30 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II.(d). Those agreed were D. Naiva, M. McLetchie, M. Lewandoski, S. Rolfe, N. Wederski and G. Wells-Kay.

The members agreed to come out of non-public session at 9:02 p.m. No decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by M. Lewandoski, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. (6-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

