

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, August 20, 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 Absent: M. McLetchie(e), M. Lewandoski(u)
Staff: R. Ball, D. Rollins

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by G.Wells-Kay, seconded by D. Naiva, it was voted to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2008 meeting as written. (4-0) N. Wederski abstained.

TIOGA RIVER WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA:

R. Ball told the members that he and Chairman Knowlton met with DES about the administrative order. DES had previously told him that the Conservation Commission would have to reflag the wetlands to get a better idea of what changed from upland to wetland and what wetland has reestablished itself. He had told them that the Commission realized that they were going to have to spend the money but they wanted to spend it on something that would do something for the land. At the meeting DES had a map laid out of the property with the areas defined by TF Moran as being wetlands and Harker had filled them in. They want the 3 areas restored by removing 6-12" of fill but they aren't going to make us flag the wetlands. The area is 96,000 square feet, a little over 2 acres. R. Ball feels that what DES is asking them to do is fair. We need to do something to restore the property. He said that TF Moran's original revegetation called for using New England wet mix. He could talk to Tracy Tarr of Stoney Ridge Environmental about what to use. D. Naiva asked if they are going to have to excavate some of the fill. R. Ball said yes and DES will be giving the Commission a new administrative

order. He said that about 3,600 cubic yards of fill will need to be removed. He doesn't know the quality of it. He will get an RFP out for the excavation as soon as he gets the administrative order.

R. Ball told the members he had sent a letter to Five Rivers Conservation Trust inquiring how the Commission could contract with them to hold a conservation easement on this property. Sarah Pillsbury who is on the Board of Trustees and also Administrator of the Drinking Water & Groundwater Program at NHDES contacted him. She would like to schedule a time when the land stewardship committee of 5RCT can get together with the members and walk the property. She said they may be eligible for a water supply land acquisition grant. The members told R. Ball they would be available to meet on September 13 with 5RCT and he will schedule it.

TOWN FOREST TRAILS:

Chairman Knowlton said he had been on two walkabouts at the town forest since their last meeting. At the first one he and S. Rolfe and D. Naiva took some measurements and pictures. He said they should try to apply for a grant to cover the cost of developing the universal accessible trail from the parking lot to the beaver dam. At the second walkabout he met with R. Ball and Andy Fast. K. Knowlton said that Andy Fast is interested in working with them on the trail. He gave K. Knowlton some paperwork on possible grants. S. Rolfe said there is a grant put out by the NH Bureau of Trails. The members decided they would like to apply for this grant.

K. Knowlton wanted the members to name the trails so they could get the maps finalized and then put some at the kiosk. They had already decided that the main trail going down from the kiosk will be named the Kurtis Bartlett trail. Instead of using colors for the remaining trails they decided on Pond View Trail, Beaver Trail, Red Pine Trail and Red Pine Loop.

2008/2009 ACTION PLAN:

S. Rolfe said that their priorities should be the town forest trails and to finalize the administrative order. G. Wells-Kay is concerned that land has been their focus but they shouldn't forget about water issues. She suggested having someone from DES give them an informational presentation on the Shoreland Protection Act. R. Ball said they could possibly do this at their October meeting. They could also invite the public to attend it.

G. Wells-Kay asked if M. Lewandoski was still reviewing the planning and zoning applications that come in. R. Balls said that he is given them every month to comment on. The members decided that someone else should take a turn reviewing them. D. Naiva said she would do it for the next two months.

STAFF REPORT:

BUDGET:

R. Ball gave the members copies of the Conservation Commission budget. He reported that

\$2,050 had been paid out of the Professional Services line for the appraisal.

STONINGTON OPEN SPACE:

R. Ball told the members that Mr. Mooney has petitioned the town to accept Stonington Drive. The open space will be deeded to the town at the same time as the road.

OTHER BUSINESS:

WETLANDS STUDY:

D. Naiva asked how the wetlands study was going. R. Ball said he would find out how they are progressing and let them know at their next meeting.

COUNTY FORESTER:

K. Knowlton said that he has invited Andy Fast to give a presentation on September 10. The members are planning to invite the town residents to attend.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 8:25 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II.(d). Those agreed were D. Naiva, G. Wells-Kay, S. Rolfe, N. Wederski.

The members agreed to come out of non-public session at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

