

## Conservation Commission

Wednesday, February 4, 2009  
Corner Meeting House  
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:03 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 December 3, 2008 meeting as written. (5-0)

M. McLetchie was concerned about the haying of the field at the Andrew Sanborn Farm property that was discussed at the December meeting. He said you can't keep haying unless you fertilize it. An alternative is to mow it and not harvest the hay. The State of NH recommends mowing every two years to accommodate wildlife. R. Ball said they will invite Mr. Keith Bennett to the March meeting to discuss his proposal to hay the property.

### **WETLANDS STUDY:**

Tracy Tarr of Stoney Ridge Environmental (SRE) was present to introduce the preliminary findings of their work and to discuss the completion of the project. Members were presented with a map of the studied wetlands and given an example of the field data sheets that were used to classify each of them. SRE started the project using the map from results of the 1989 prime wetland study which depicts 46 wetlands. By using the National Wetland Inventory, soils data and size as criteria, SRE narrowed

their focus to 25 wetlands. From these 25, SRE used the 18 that were rated highest to show the 14 different functional values on a graph. The New Hampshire Method describes those functions that are to be used to score each wetland: Ecological Integrity, Wildlife Habitat, Fish Habitat in Rivers & Streams, Fish Habitat in Ponds & Lakes, Educational Potential, Visual/Aesthetic Quality, Water-based Recreation, Ground Water Use Potential, Sediment Trapping, Nutrient Attenuation, Shoreline Anchoring, Historical Site Potential & Noteworthiness. The final report will include a compilation sheet for each wetland. Ms. Tarr told the members that if the report were to be used to designate prime wetlands at the state level they only need to use 10 functions so she suggested they take 4 off. Although designating the wetlands as prime is not the purpose of the current study, after much discussion the members decided that in order to maintain a level of consistency of data that the 4 functions that offered the least insight in identifying the significance of each wetland are Noteworthiness, Historical Site Potential, Water-based Recreation and Fish Habitat in Ponds & Lakes. R. Ball will contact Ms. Tarr.

#### **TOWN FOREST UNIVERSAL ACCESS GRANT & KIOSK:**

D. Naiva said the application for the NH Trails Bureau Grant (\$1334.00) has been submitted.

R. Ball told the members that Alex Phelps of Pike Industries contacted him about donating 5 truckloads (125 tons) of material for the trail. The members discussed where they would be able to store it while they're building the trail. K. Knowlton said he would talk to one of the neighbors to see if they would allow them to put it in their field.

R. Ball showed the members the picture and bio of Jeff Marden that will be put in the kiosk. He said that he does have some maps printed and will put them at the kiosk as soon as he gets a box to put them in.

#### **TIOGA RIVER WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION AREA PROPERTY:**

R. Ball received an e-mail from Sarah Pillsbury of Five Rivers Conservation Trust. Five Rivers is deferring the vote on the easement until after their next meeting when they will discuss enlarging their service area.

The members discussed how they can get rid of the junk and the 2 oil tanks that they found when they walked the property. R. Ball said he would call Victor Virgin who owns the neighboring property to see if he would remove the tanks since the better access to them is through his property. Small equipment, like a backhoe, will be needed to remove the other items. The members will try to find someone who would be willing to do it for free before they consider hiring someone.

#### **NEWSLETTER:**

G. Wells-Kay is putting together another newsletter to be sent out sometime in March. K. Knowlton suggested they mention in the newsletter that there are some open positions on the Commission, 1 alternate member position and 1 full member position.

**STAFF REPORT:****MEMBERSHIP:**

R. Ball told the members that Nancy Wederski will not ask to be reappointed for her position as a full time member. Both Mark Lewandoski and Ginger Wells-Kay's terms are up at the end of March so they need to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen if they wish to continue to serve.

**OLD HOME DAY:**

R. Ball said he has been contacted by the Old Home Day Committee asking if the members would be interested in having a booth or helping out on Old Home Day. The theme this year will be celebrating Belmont's agricultural heritage. The members thought they could have a booth where they could display maps of the town forest and the conservation properties.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise Rollins

