

## Conservation Commission

Wednesday, June 14, 2006  
Corner Meeting House  
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present: Chairman K. Knowlton(7:10), N. Wederski, B. Watterson,  
G. Wells-Kay, D. Naiva  
Members Absent: M. Lewandoski(e), W. Peterson(u)  
Alternates Present: M. McLetchie, S. Rolfe  
Staff: R. Ball, D. Rollins

Vice Chairman D. Naiva opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and appointed S. Rolfe and M. McLetchie voting members for tonight's meeting.

### **WATERSHED TO WILDLIFE:**

Elise Lawson and John Severance of Watershed to Wildlife, Inc. told the members that the next step for them to develop a natural resource inventory is to get out in the field. By using the data that R. Ball sent to them they highlighted areas on a map that they felt were important to inventory. They asked the members to prioritize the properties they would like them to inventory then they can schedule the field work. R. Ball suggested that the Harker property on Route 140 that the Conservation Commission recently purchased should be considered. Other properties that the members decided that they would like to have inventoried are the Bean Dam area, Pout Pond and the property bordering Belknap Mountain. Ms. Lawson and Mr. Severance said that they will not go on any property that is posted. The members offered to notify any landowners that they need them to.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

B. Watterson said that he met with W. Peterson about why he has been missing so many monthly Conservation Commission meetings. He said that he has another commitment on Wednesday evenings. He would like the members to change the meeting night. Although the members feel that it will be difficult to proceed with one member absent they do not want to change the date. K. Knowlton said that the Commission has always met on a Wednesday. He suggested that W. Peterson become an alternate instead so that one of the other alternates could become a full member. B. Watterson said that W. Peterson would find it objectionable to become an alternate. Also the Board of Selectmen have the final say and they don't want to remove him. D. Naiva said that the Commission depends on members to be active and it is to the detriment of the Commission if they do not attend the meetings. G. Wells-Kay

suggested that one of the Commission members attend the Planning Board meetings. W. Peterson is also a member of the Planning Board and since he's not coming to the Commission's meetings she said that they are missing out although they do receive the Planning Board minutes.

**PROPOSED 4 TOWN JOINT EFFORT TO PROTECT THE BELKNAP RANGE:**

K. Knowlton and D. Naiva said they will be attending this first meeting on June 29, 2006 at 7 pm at the Cooperative Extension office in the Belknap County Complex. The other three towns are Alton, Gilford & Gilmanton.

**TOWN FOREST WORK DAY:**

It has been rescheduled to Sunday, June 25 at 9am – 3pm. R. Ball said that he will send out letters to the abutters notifying them of the change. The members decided that the rain date will be sometime in September.

**BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by D. Naiva, it was voted to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2006 meeting as written. (7-0)

**STAFF REPORT:**

**LRPC ANNUAL MEETING:**

R. Ball told the members that The Lakes Region Planning Commission will be holding their annual meeting on Monday, June 26 from 6-9pm at the Lakeview Inn in Wolfeboro.

**STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION'S NH CONSERVATION CORPS (SCA NHCC):**

R. Ball received a letter from the program director. They are currently accepting project requests for the 2007 season. They partner with land management agencies and community organizations to protect watersheds, build trails, control erosion, conduct flood control and cleanup, conduct restoration work and many other labor intensive conservation projects in the state. He told the members that they may want to explore using them for a project possibly for the wetlands restoration that needs to be done on the Harker property. S. Rolfe said that they like big projects and will do any type within reason.

**PROPOSED CONCORD REGIONAL SOLID WASTE COOP LANDFILL:**

K. Knowlton is concerned that Belmont is one of the fastest growing communities in the area and the only one in the coop that doesn't have recycling. B. Watterson said that the recycling committee tried to get a recycling center but it was voted down at town meeting because of the cost. Since then Bestway has proposed their own building on Route 140 and has offered to have a small recycling center for the town. It should be up and running this fall. He said the Selectmen are looking into the cost of recycling.

G. Wells-Kay feels that it is an irresponsible location for the landfill. It is too convenient for them. She said that they are here to protect natural resources and conserve and that they should write a

letter stating that they do not support this site. D. Naiva said that landfills no matter where you put them are a potential risk. Her other concern about this site is with the recent flooding the Suncook River changed it's flow and it could happen with the Merrimack River. G. Wells- Kay said that she asked Jim Presher, the coop's director, if there has been a change and he said no. B. Watterson said that it's not outrageous for them to take a stance against this landfill but his objection is that they have to be for something. They may think the increased cost is acceptable because they don't want to ruin the Merrimack River. The other sites that were looked at were near neighborhoods, wetlands or the one in Belmont was on the aquifer. K. Knowlton doesn't think this is the right place either but they need to commit to something. He asked how they can say no to that site without cutting down waste in their own town by not recycling. He would like to see the results of the third or fourth study and hear from DES. He trusts DES to do the right thing. He doesn't feel that this is the time for the Conservation Commission to respond. After further discussion the members agreed to wait until they have more information.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

---

Denise Rollins

