

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, May 2, 2007
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to approve the minutes of the March 7 meeting as written. (5-2) (J. Pike abstained)

SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION:

Several members of the Silver Lake Association were present to update the members on their milfoil eradication project. John Cambrey told the members that the state has finished a 5 year management plan for them. He only has one copy and said he will e-mail it to R. Ball. He said it's a very comprehensive plan. It will be a combination of herbicide treatment and hand pulling. They are planning on doing the herbicide treatment in early June depending on the height of the lake. Then they will follow with divers to do the hand pulling. They need to find out if they can use their own divers and possibly have DES show them how to pull the weeds properly.

JEFF MARDEN MEMORIAL:

K. Knowlton felt that the town forest would be a good place to dedicate to Jeff Marden because of his active interest in conserving the forest. He grew up near the town forest and fished and hunted there. The town forest is centrally located and adjacent to the high school. He felt that it would be fitting for his name to be associated with it. He loved the town forest and kept an eye on it.

J. Pike said that he served with Jeff on the Planning Board for many years. His impression of Jeff

was that he was very concerned about the kids in Belmont. He said that he was adamant about one thing and that was what the town is doing for the kids. If it was a kids issue he wouldn't give up. J. Pike didn't disagree with the town forest dedication but he said there were a lot of people involved in it. He felt they should name a park recreation center after him because of his concern for the children.

G. Wells-Kay had a third idea to memorialize Jeff. He was concerned about maintaining wildlife corridors. She said they could focus on greenways and naming one after him. Innovative zoning that he brought forward could be part of the greenway.

M. Lewandoski didn't think that naming the town forest after Jeff would be appropriate because there were a lot of people involved in it's acquisition. His conversations with Jeff have always been about wildlife and wildlife corridors. He felt that the property on Route 140 that the Conservation Commission acquired should be named after him. That property is predominately wildlife and he felt that they should dedicate this property to him, around something that he really liked and enjoyed. It is a piece of land that will continue to maintain wildlife and will not be developed. W. Peterson agreed. He said that Jeff was concerned about the wildlife, creating and bettering wildlife habitat, creating pathways for the animals to get from one side to another. They should do something with the wildlife aspect. It could be the gateway to the green areas and they could put up a sign.

D. Naiva felt that Jeff's family should decide and the members should respect their wishes. They knew him best. Several members of his family were present. They said that Jeff treasured the town forest. It was near where he grew up and he spent a lot of time there.

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, the members voted to name the Belmont town forest after Jeff Marden. (7-0)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION SCHOLARSHIP:

Chairman Knowlton had been asked by the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation about renaming the Belmont Conservation Commission Scholarship in Jeff Marden's honor. He hoped he was not out of line in telling them to do so and he wanted to vote on it.

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, the members voted to name the Belmont Conservation Commission Scholarship after Jeff Marden. (7-0)

MEMORIAL PAINTING:

G. Wells-Kay told the members about a painting by Judith Hartke that she saw in an art gallery. It's a spiritual picture of a deer bending down eating some grass. She thought it could be purchased and they could put a brass plate on it with Jeff's name on it and have a dedication around the time of his birthday in November. She said the price is \$525 for the framed painting.

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to petition the Board of Selectmen and the town for \$800 to purchase the painting and have a dedication.

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mr. David Morse told the members that the Lakes Region Planning Commission needs a new member and would hope that one of the Conservation Commission members would consider it.

STEPONAVICIUS MERGED LOTS:

R. Ball said that these lots are from a subdivision done in 1960 on Dutile Road. A number of roads were proposed but nothing was built. The town has gotten the majority of the lots through tax deed after the property owners let their taxes lapse. Now the Board of Selectmen has applied to the Planning Board to have the lots merged. It will create 4 bigger parcels and they can continue to add lots to them when they become available. In 2003 the Board of Selectmen talked about merging the lots as conservation land. The Board of Selectmen discussed subdividing the lots and only selling the frontage lots and the money could go back to the Conservation Commission to purchase other land. J. Pike said the Board of Selectmen have not taken a position on this at this time. All the boards and the public would have to consider this before it would happen. Mr. David Morse said that the land doesn't cost anything now and it has been identified as a wildlife corridor. It would be self defeating if they identify it as conservation land and then sell it off to acquire other land. He said that this land does have a purpose and they would be better off leaving it the way it is. R. Ball said the only reason he brought it to the members was that the merger is finally happening. J. Pike assured the members that they will be involved in what happens to the property.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by N. Wederski, the members voted to have K. Knowlton remain as the Chairman of the Conservation Commission. (7-0)

MOTION: J. Pike nominated W. Peterson as Vice Chairman. It was not seconded.

MOTION: N. Wederski made a motion to nominate D. Naiva to be Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission. It was seconded by G. Wells-Kay. All the members were in favor. (7-0)

CC PLANNING DAY:

D. Naiva felt that it was a wonderful way for the members to come together and come up with their goals. K. Knowlton agreed that it was a very productive meeting and they accomplished a lot. R. Ball told the members that the meeting was posted as a general planning session and certain items of business came before the board. C. Daigle said that next time they need to publish the topics that they are going to be talking about. They need to list the topics and be more specific since it is a public meeting.

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by S. Rolfe, the members voted to approve the minutes of the Planning Day on April 15 as written. (5-0) J. Pike and W. Peterson abstained.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:

R. Ball told the members that Watershed to Wildlife is ready to present the members with the NRI. The members said they would like to invite the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board to the presentation. R. Ball will get back to them with some dates to schedule it.

NATURAL SERVICES NETWORK:

D. Naiva attended a presentation of the Natural Services Network as part of the Smart Growth Program. It is a mapping tool created by the Jordan Institute and is designed to inform communities about the location of critical natural resources in their area. It identifies and maps key factors such as water supply, flood storage, economically important soils and high-priority wildlife habitat. Communities can plan land around these areas, reducing impact to these resources. D. Naiva said that it is a state wide inventory with overlay maps. She said they could take those maps and put them over Bemont. She said that it's more information that will give them some good ideas.

WHIP APPLICATION:

R. Ball said that he had placed the WHIP Application on the April meeting agenda so that K. Knowlton would be authorized to sign the application on the Commission's behalf. He didn't see that they had voted on that.

TIOGA CONSERVATION LAND:

K. Knowlton said that Carol Foss of Audubon would be interested in taking a look at the property. D. Naiva said it would be good to get Audubon's input and see what they are identifying as important habitat. R. Ball said that DES was concerned that there wasn't a conservation easement on the property. He said there is a deed with conservation restrictions on it. W. Peterson felt that should be enough to protect the property. D. Naiva was concerned that with the change in Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen members those pieces of properties could be placed in jeopardy with the changes. G. Wells-Kay suggested that maybe someone could come and talk to them possibly Watershed to Wildlife. R. Ball said that DES will be going back out on the property during the growing season to assess the outstanding Letter of Deficiency.

BEAN DAM-MAP 225 LOT 8:

R. Ball told the members that Mr. Locke is still trying to get the dam breached. R. Ball and Jim Tarr will be walking the property tomorrow for the Environmental Site Assessment. The members would like to schedule a time to walk it also.

NORTON PROPERTY-MAP 234 LOT 2:

R. Ball told the members that the Nortons are not interested in selling their property at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER:

G. Wells-Kay said they are planning another newsletter to be sent out later this month. She is looking for ideas/articles from the members. She is focusing on water resources and protection.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 9:25 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II.(d). Those agreed were D. Naiva, N. Wederski, W. Peterson, G. Wells-Kay, J. Pike, M. McLetchie, Rolfe and M. Lewandoski.

The members came out of non-public session at 9:40 p.m.

No decisions were reached during the non-public session.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by D. Naiva, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

