

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, May 6, 2009
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present: Ken Knowlton, Ginger Wells-Kay, Denise Naiva, Scott Rolfe
Keith Bennett, David Morse(7:10)
Members Absent: Ward Peterson(u), Mark Lewandoski(u)
Alternates Present: Magnus McLetchie, Carol Fairfield
Staff: Rick Ball, Denise Rollins

Chairman Knowlton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and appointed C. Fairfield as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

Town of Belmont Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cynthia DeRoy swore in G. Wells-Kay and K. Bennett as full members and C. Fairfield as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission.

STONE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL:

Tracey Tarr of Stoney Ridge Environmental presented the final report and map of the wetlands study. She handed out final maps and a copy of the Prime Wetland Assessment report to the members for their review and comments. She did a Power Point presentation on information included in the detailed assessment.

The overall objective of the study was to complete a comprehensive evaluation of all large wetland systems using the NH Method. This assessment provides an updated evaluation of large wetland complexes in the town. The original prime wetland assessment conducted for the town was completed approximately 20 years ago in 1989. Of the original 46 wetlands identified in the 1989 study, 34 met the size and soil criteria for prime wetland designation; they are greater than 2 acres and greater than 50% very poorly drained soil. Stoney Ridge selected 25 wetlands for analysis based on relatively high ecological integrity (limited development surrounding the wetland and/or limited fill in the wetland) or presence in six target areas of the town that are associated with important water resource or ground water aquifer areas. Those 25 wetlands were combined into 18; they used the old wetland designation numbers in the current assessment to avoid confusion. For analysis purposes they used the 10 possible assessed wetland functions that were previously chosen by the Conservation Commission. These functions are: Ecological Integrity, Wildlife Habitat, Fish Habitat, Educational Potential, Visual/Aesthetic Quality, Flood Control Potential, Ground Water Use Potential, Sediment Trapping, Nutrient Attenuation and Shoreline Anchoring.

As part of their field work they photographed all the wetlands and identified the dominant vegetation and classified habitat types. They also used information from NH GRANIT, Town of Belmont tax maps, NHDES, the Belmont Stratified Drift Aquifer plan, NH Natural Heritage Bureau and the current NH Wildlife Action Plan.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2009 meeting as written. (7-0)

BOY SCOUT PROJECT:

Alvin Nix from Scout Troop 65 asked the members if they had any projects that he could do to earn his merit badges. He has 100 hours of time that he needs to put in. K. Knowlton told him that he would contact him by the end of the week. The members discussed projects he could do in the town forest.

ANDREW SANBORN FARM SITE WALK:

D. Naiva said that several of the members walked the property. They were joined by Lindsay Webb from Fish & Game and also former owners Howard Warren and Karen Feltham. She said they talked a lot about the field and managing it. She and K. Bennett will be attending a workshop about managing fields for wildlife habitat. D. Naiva said they also talked about possibly not using the Durrell Mountain Road access to the property. Middle Route may be a better access for winter activities. Some ideas they came up with are to put in duck houses and introducing wildflowers. They did see some coyote and deer tracks and some wild turkeys. She told the members they should start looking at drafting a stewardship plan and suggested they have a work session. K. Knowlton agreed and said they also need to do a plan for the Tioga River Wildlife & Conservation Area. The members decided to devote the July meeting to this and will start at 6:00 p.m. The stewardship plans for both properties will be on the agenda.

BELMONT OLD HOME DAY:

The members talked about whether they would have a booth on Old Home Day. The theme is celebrating Belmont's agricultural heritage. K. Knowlton said they could provide information on grants for farmers. G-Wells-Kay said they could also have maps on their recent conservation land acquisitions.

TOWN FOREST:

D. Naiva told the members that they were selected to receive the grant of \$1,332 from the 2009 Recreational Trails Program. The members discussed the schedule for doing the trail work and decided that the end of August may be the best time. S. Rolfe said they need to brush the trail out first. They also need to replace 2 culverts. R. Ball will draft a letter to Pike thanking them for the material that they are donating.

TIOGA RIVER WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION AREA:

R. Ball said that the tanks have been taken out by Virgin Construction. He told the members that he spoke with Chuck Knox from 5 Rivers and the Commission should be hearing from them in June about the conservation easement.

SHORELAND PROTECTION SPEAKER:

R. Ball said that Jason Aube from DES Wetlands Bureau will be at the June meeting. He is the Shoreland Specialist and will be doing a presentation on the changes to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act. It will be filmed for the Public Access channel. R. Ball has drafted a poster to publicize it and will contact the Silver Lake Association, Winnisquam Association and surrounding towns.

OTHER BUSINESS:**STONINGTON DRIVE OPEN SPACE:**

D. Naiva said that she read in the Planning Board minutes that Mr. Mooney has rescinded his donation of the open space property to the town. R. Ball said that he had decided to transfer the land to a private non-profit organization instead.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 8:55 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II(d). Those agreed were G. Wells-Kay, D. Naiva, S. Rolfe, K. Bennett, D. Morse, C. Fairfield, and M. McLetchie.

The members agreed to come out of non-public session at 9:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

