

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, November 1, 2006
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

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

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by W. Peterson, it was voted to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2006 meeting as written. (7-0)

SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION:

Members of the Silver Lake Association were present. At the last Conservation Commission meeting the members requested that the association do a survey of all the Silver Lake residents to find out the level of participation. They did do the survey and passed out the results to the members. They sent out 214 surveys and received approximately 85 back. Out of the 85 responses they received 96% were aware of milfoil and its effects on lakes in New Hampshire and 92% supported a program to control milfoil on Silver Lake. Only 54% supported the use of 2,4d as part of the milfoil control effort. Of those that supported this effort 52% are willing to volunteer their time to assist with the project and 48% are willing to make a contribution to assist with the costs.

As a result of the state survey the association expects the treatment to cost between \$6,300 and \$6,700. The state will pay 50% of the total cost of the treatment. They met with the Tilton Board of Selectmen recently who have agreed to contribute \$1,750. Their formal proposal requests \$1,750 from the Town of Belmont but it could be less. They gave the members a map of the treatment area. They said that some will be treated with 2,4d and some will be handpicked. The last time it was treated was in 1996 and now 6.2 acres is affected. They hope to continue with hand harvesting after the treatment is done. They have 6 divers who will volunteer their time to do this.

B. Watterson felt that 40% response of the survey was not good. When asking for money there should be at least a 75% level of participation. He said that they may not need to be before the

Commission if the level of participation was higher. With 214 landowners at \$50 each they could fund it themselves. They said they were not capable of doing that. After being asked they also could not commit to saying that they would not come forward again in a few years to request more money.

The SLA members asked if they should get on the agenda for the Belmont Board of Selectmen and present it to them. They were told that the Commission has the authority to spend the money since they have their own budget. They could add a line item in their budget for next year to fund this request.

G. Wells-Kay said that a lot of people feel that 2,4d is not good and would feel more comfortable if they were using something safe. They said that it is the most heavily used weed killer and is licensed by the state. There are four different levels that the EPA rates chemicals and 2,4d is rated #4 and they have not traced it to any kind of carcinogens. M. McLetchie said that 2,4d is a component of agent orange and he's also not convinced that it is safe. N. Wederski was also against supporting putting chemicals in the lake. D. Naiva said that it may be wiser to use less chemicals now and try to eradicate it now. W. Peterson agreed that it may be smarter to deal with the problem now. S. Rolfe said that it is an invasive species and they need to show some due diligence but he would like to know what the fisheries biologist recommends. The Commission members decided to delay their decision until the December meeting when Chairman Knowlton returns.

2006 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:

Lenny Smock-Randall was present to meet the members and thank them for receiving the 2006 Belmont Conservation Commission Scholarship. He is a senior at UNH studying Environmental Conservation with a focus on community development. He is a part time intern working for the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

TOWN FOREST:

R. Ball reported that the gates are up in the town forest. He marked the line between the high school and the town forest and found that the ropes course is on the school's property and not in the town forest.

D. Naiva said that the Tioga Estates property line could be moved by a boundary line adjustment, they could give the town an easement or they could give the okay for the town to use it. She said that they first could ask for provision to go ahead and use it. She asked if it would be appropriate to attend one of their meetings and was told it would be okay. R. Ball said that an easement would be as good as a boundary line adjustment and much less expensive to do.

MOUNTAIN LAKE VILLAGE:

D. Naiva said that at last month's meeting the members reconsidered this property. She would like to walk the property and do an inventory if the members are still interested. It was decided that D. Naiva, G. Wells-Kay and R. Ball would meet on Friday, November 3 to walk the property. S. Rolfe said that it's already protected land whether the Commission takes an easement on it or not since it's protected open space. The members decided they need to do the criteria then they can make an informed decision.

STONINGTON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION:

D. Naiva said that she will plan on walking the property with M. Lewandoski when he returns from vacation since he is familiar with it.

STAFF REPORT:**WATERSHED TO WILDLIFE, INC.:**

R. Ball reported to the members that they have finished the field work and will be starting on the report. They said they found a number of rich unique habitats.

TRI-TOWN AQUIFER MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 6 in Tilton. R. Ball said they will be finalizing the BMP manuals.

OTHER BUSINESS:**CARBON COALITION:**

G. Wells-Kay told the members that she had received some information about the Carbon Coalition. They are a group of NH citizens trying to get attention of the NH Legislature to put good energy policies in place. They are trying to get towns to appoint an energy commission. B. Watterson said he would be hesitant to appoint another commission or board. She gave the members their website if they would like more information. It is www.carboncoalition.org.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 9:20 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II.(d). Those agreed were D. Naiva, N. Wederski, W. Peterson, G. Wells-Kay, B. Watterson, M. McLetchie, S. Rolfe.

The members came out of non-public session at 9:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by M. McLetchie, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

