

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, October 4, 2006
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present: Chairman K. Knowlton, D. Naiva, G. Wells-Kay,
W. Peterson(7:02), N. Wederski, M. Lewandoski, B. Watterson
Alternates Absent: S. Rolfe(e), M. McLetchie(u)
Staff: R. Ball, D. Rollins

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

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

D. Naiva requested the minutes of September 20, 2006 be amended to include her as being present at the meeting.

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to approve the minutes as amended. (6-0)

STONINGTON HEIGHTS OPEN SPACE DEDICATION:

Attorney John Giere was present for Mark Mooney. He said that Mr. Mooney has a cluster subdivision on the southwest side of Leavitt Road with common land. He is proposing to transfer the common land to the Town of Belmont through the Belmont Conservation Commission. He said that he has sent a draft deed to R. Ball which is subject to editing. There is a total of 88.69 acres. It has a recreational trail area and it would prohibit wheeled motorized vehicles. Snowmobiles would not be prohibited. PSNH has an easement right over the property. He said the land is open to the public now. K. Knowlton asked if the residents are aware of this. He said yes and there are access points to the common area. K. Knowlton told him that the Commission has a template that they go by for land that is offered to them. He would like to go over that template with the members and do a site walk of the property first.

SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION:

Several members of the Silver Lake Association were present. They gave the Conservation

Commission members copies of their Milfoil Management Update. K. Knowlton asked if they have received a commitment from the Town of Tilton. They said that they have received a very positive response from them and will tentatively be meeting with the Tilton Conservation Commission on October 16th to present their update and plan.

They hope that a single herbicide will bring the present level of milfoil down to a level that can be controlled with volunteer efforts and hand harvesting in the years to come. They have recruited six certified divers who are willing to participate in the hand harvesting. DES is putting together a program to certify the divers so they can pull the plants anytime without permits. They have identified several Silver Lake residents who have volunteered their time and watercraft to provide screening and monitoring of the herbicide treatment.

A new survey has been completed and a map has been developed that shows the current level of infestation. In two years the milfoil on the northern part of the lake has grown from 1.32 acres to over 6 acres. They expect to receive a grant from the State to cover 50% of the cost of the herbicide treatment. Also DES is going to put together a five year plan for them, an overall plan for managing both exotic and native plants. Since they have just received the new survey they have not been able to get estimates yet.

G. Wells-Kay asked them if they have notified all the landowners. They said they have spoken to them at the association meeting and the residents are aware of their plan. B. Watterson asked if they have surveyed the landowners. They said they haven't. He said they need to find out what the level of participation by the landowners is. There may be opposition to this because of the herbicides. He said that ultimately this will be before the selectmen and they need to know how many are participating. He said if they don't have the participation from the landowners it will be a hard sell to the other residents of Belmont. K. Knowlton told them that they need to do the survey and develop a proposal. They said they were willing to do this and hopefully have it for the November meeting.

MOUNTAIN LAKE OPEN SPACE:

R. Ball said that Atty. Brouillard had originally approached the Conservation Commissions in Laconia and Belmont at the same time to accept a conservation easement on the open space property on his Mountain Lake Village subdivision. They both declined the offer. Then he came to last month's meeting and asked the members to accept it in fee. R. Ball said that one thing is whether they own it or not it will probably not be any more or less staff time. K. Knowlton said that if the association owns it will be their problem to police it. D. Naiva said they should see if it meets their criteria. K. Knowlton agreed they should grade the property and they need to look at the abutting pieces of land. M. Lewandoski felt that because of the abutting properties it makes a lot of sense to acquire this property in fee. The members agreed to make a commitment to go out and walk the property along with the Stonington Heights open space property.

FINAL TOWN FOREST RULES & REGULATIONS:

R. Ball gave the members a copy of a letter he drafted to be sent to Marcia Hayward, Belmont High School Principal. He thanks the school for actively using the town forest. He also questions her about the ropes course that the members found when they were in the town forest. M. Lewandoski said they should determine whether it is on school property or town forest property. R. Ball said he will go out and see if it is before the letter is sent. G. Wells-Kay suggested talking to Mrs. Hayward first. D. Naiva said she would be willing to talk to her after they find out whose property

the ropes course is on.

R. Ball told the members that Karen Whiston of 187 Wildlife Boulevard came into the Land Use Office to complain about people driving across her driveway to access the town forest. He asked Bob Bennett how much it would cost to pave an apron in the area of her driveway. He said it would be about \$1,000. The members discussed voting to expend the money to pave it. They decided to look into further. Since Ms. Whiston's driveway is on the right of way K. Knowlton said it would be beneficial to find out who owns the right of way.

R. Ball gave the members copies of the Stewardship Plan of the Town Forest. He said he added that non-motorized boats, canoes and kayaks had to be removed at the end of each day. W. Peterson questioned about having bow hunting as a permitted conduct. He said that bow hunting is considered a firearm. R. Ball said that they could change prohibited conduct to firearms with the exception of bow hunting.

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by N. Wederski, the members voted to accept the Stewardship Plan for the Town of Belmont Town Forest with the modifications. (7-0)

TRI-TOWN AQUIFER PROJECT:

K. Knowlton said that the Best Management Practices Guidebook doesn't address conserving water quantity. It should be a common vision to preserve water quality and conserve water quantity. R. Ball said the guidebook is geared towards homeowners and small developers. It lets them know what they can do when they're doing excavation, washing vehicles, changing their oil. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7. He will let the members know where it will be held if they're interested in attending.

OTHER BUSINESS:

GALE SCHOOL:

K. Knowlton told the members that he was notified by Diane Marden who is on the committee to save the Gale School. She asked if the Conservation Commission would write a letter showing their support. K. Knowlton asked the members if they thought this would be appropriate for them to do as a board. After discussing this the members decided that it would not be appropriate for them to write a letter. However, they could show their support individually.

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 K. Knowlton, D. Naiva, N. Wederski, W. Peterson, G. Wells-Kay, B. Watterson, M. Lewandoski.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by D. Naiva, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

