

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Corner Meeting House

Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 6:56 p.m. He appointed S. Rolfe as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2006 meeting as written. (4-0)

MOUNTAIN LAKE VILLAGE OPEN SPACE:

Atty. Brouillard told the members that he received the letter from the Conservation Commission in which they declined his offer for the conservation easement on the open space property on his Mountain Lake Village subdivision. He said he discussed it with the land use staff and he is now here to ask the members to accept it in fee. This would be on condition of the subdivision approval. He said it would be a good piece of land for the town to control. It has existing snowmobile trails. The subdivision is 107 acres in which 67 will be open space. Forty nine of the open space acres are in Belmont. D. Naiva asked if there would be public access to the property. Atty. Brouillard showed the members on the plan where there would be three places where it could be accessed from the development. K. Knowlton said he would want the residents to know that it is public land. Atty. Brouillard said that he would advise everyone buying land about this. K. Knowlton told him that they are very interested in what he is offering. He would like to discuss it with more of the members who are not present. They will bring it up at the next Conservation Commission meeting on October 4 and will let him know of their decision.

D. Naiva said they should go through the checklist. They can't accept everything that is offered. She

doesn't feel that the property is going to be very accessible. K. Knowlton agreed and that the only value would be to the wildlife. There is no major waterway. He said that whether they own it or not it is protected land. R. Ball told the members that the state is requiring someone to hold a conservation easement on it. If Atty. Brouillard gives the Commission the land then they have to find someone to hold the easement. DES will have some restrictions on it. He said that the town could own it and the Conservation Commission could hold the easement. The members decided to discuss it further at their October meeting.

SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION:

Jim Sawicki, John Cambray and Paul O'Connell were present from the Silver Lake Association. They were looking for assistance from the Conservation Commission to help get rid of milfoil on Silver Lake. K. Knowlton asked if they have approached the Town of Tilton and what their response was. Mr. Cambray said there will be someone going to talk to them. D. Naiva wanted to know what the project will entail, is it one time and will they need yearly funding. Mr. Cambray said that it is a combination of herbicide and hand harvesting. It is typically done both ways. He said it is getting more prevalent. The survey done in 2005 identified 2.35 acres were affected. The lake is 216 acres. There is a public boat launch. Eight years ago the state treated it and paid the full amount. Now they'll only pay 50% of the cost. They are looking to get some funding from the Commission. They need approximately \$2300 but will know the exact amount after the state does a new survey. K. Knowlton told them that this is the first time that the Commission has been approached with the milfoil question. His fear is that they can't be the people that fund milfoil to be eradicated. It's coming down from Winnisquam and would want to see participation from all towns concerned. He would like to hear their commitment since it's not going to be a one time deal. He would like to see further planning from Tilton and a commitment from the residents. Since the state will be paying 50% he would like to see Tilton pay 25% and Belmont 25%. He asked them if they could come to the October meeting with an update. Before committing any money he wants to know what Tilton's interests are. He said that the Commission is interested and would like to formulate a plan.

TOWN FOREST RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The members looked over the draft copy of the Stewardship Plan for the Town Forest. D. Naiva said it was discussed at the subcommittee meeting. She suggested keeping it simple. The Town Forest is there for recreation. S. Rolfe said he will do a more in depth inventory. He felt the rules are pretty comprehensive.

Another recommendation is to develop a timber management plan. D. Naiva asked if they were going to be doing that. S. Rolfe suggested changing it to read timber/wildlife management plan. The members agreed. D. Naiva also wanted to add under Permitted Conduct that non-motorized boats would be allowed on the pond but need to be removed after each day's use.

D. Naiva asked about the status of the beaver pond. K. Knowlton said they want to get it back in place. The grade has dropped a lot. He said they need to get the base fixed so it won't blow out again. They should get it stabilized first then they can talk about doing a bridge. He thought that would be a great eagle scout project. D. Naiva said they might want to consider a moose plate application to get the funding. K. Knowlton said they need to get Mike Lynch's input since he designed the first one. R. Ball said that one of the problems is that the core is not select material. The members agreed that they need to commit to reclaiming the pond.

STAFF REPORT:**TRI-TOWN AQUIFER PROJECT:**

R. Ball gave the members copies of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) Guidebook. It is a culmination of the Protecting Shared Drinking Water Resources Project begun in 2001 between Belmont, Tilton & Northfield, along with the Lakes Region Planning Commission and funded by a Source Water Protection Grant from the NHDES. He would like the members to review the manual so they can give him any comments at their next meeting. Their goal is to create a manual that homeowners can use; one reference manual specifically geared to aquifer protection.

MUNICIPAL LAW LECTURE SERIES:

R. Ball told the members that one of the lectures of the Municipal Law Lecture series will be Environmental Permitting: The Role of Local Officials. It is scheduled for November 8 if any of the members are interested in attending.

WATERSHED TO WILDLIFE:

R. Ball updated the members that they have finished their field work.

OTHER BUSINESS:**THE BELKNAP MOUNTAIN RANGE:**

The next meeting of the proposed 4 town joint effort to protect the Belknap Range is scheduled for October 5.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

N. Wederski made a motion, seconded by S. Rolfe, to enter non-public session at 9:00 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II.(d). Those agreed were K. Knowlton, D. Naiva, N. Wederski, S. Rolfe, R. Ball and D. Rollins.

The members came out of non-public session at 9:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

