

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, September 5, 2007
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. He appointed M. Lewandoski 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 1, 2007 meeting as written. (6-0)

FOLEY OIL SITE PLAN:

R. Ball told the members that this presentation has been cancelled for tonight's meeting and will be on for the October meeting. He said they have not submitted a formal application yet. Their proposal is to replace their existing above ground tanks with underground ones. They will need a variance of the Wetlands Ordinance to place the tanks closer than 250 feet to a stream. The Conservation Commission will have the opportunity to comment on the application. R. Ball said that he suggested to Foley that they come to the Commission first.

2008 BUDGET AND PROJECTS:

R. Ball told the members that they need to finalize the budget tonight. At last month's meeting they talked about doing an additional project next year from the Natural Resource Inventory to map wetlands and vernal pools. He received a price of \$8,000 to \$12,000 from Watershed to Wildlife to do this. The members discussed using this information to create an ordinance to designate the Prime Wetlands in

Belmont. S. Rolfe said that doing this would make it costlier for the landowner to work on his property. If someone wants to harvest timber and if there's any type of crossing attached to the wetlands they would need to apply for a major wetlands application. It would be more cumbersome and a wetlands scientist from DES would have to do a site review. This would really penalize those landowners next to the wetlands that have kept their lots in open space. R. Ball said that every prime wetlands application would become a major one no matter how small the impact is to the wetland. K. Knowlton asked how much of an impact has been made because there isn't a prime wetlands ordinance. R. Ball told him that none of the developments since he's been working for the town have impacted a prime wetlands. D. Naiva wanted to know how much prime wetlands there is in Belmont. M. Lewandoski said that initially it encompassed a large area. It was brought back to town meeting and the designation was taken off. R. Ball said that one of the problems was that the town tax maps were so poor. He said that it will be a huge hurdle if they choose to go forward with it. K. Knowlton said that when the Commission proposed conservation districts it was perceived that they were telling people what they could and could not do with their property. He believes that the Commission is now at a point where they have some value, a good reputation and are an active Commission. Rather than trying to pass a Prime Wetlands Ordinance they should do the mapping of the significant wetlands and then they could do something to tighten up the Wetlands Ordinance. R. Ball said they could put in a revision that anyone abutting a wetlands will have to come to the Conservation Commission. K. Knowlton said that this would put one more layer on the maps which could educate the public and give a tool to the Planning Board. R. Ball reminded the members that mapping wetlands is one of the Conservation Commission's primary statutory responsibilities. The inventory will go towards fulfilling the Commission's primary mission. The members agreed that they would like to increase their Conservation Projects line an additional \$12,000 to do the wetlands inventory. The members also discussed doing another newsletter and agreed to budget \$2,000 for that.

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by N. Wederski, the members voted to increase the budget line for Conservation Projects to \$18,200 and to leave the Professional Services budget line at \$8,000 and the General Expense line at \$1,100. (6-0)

K. Knowlton said that now that they have purchased the sign for the Tioga River Wildlife Conservation Area he would like them to purchase the sign for the town forest which will be named after Jeff Marden. The members agreed to purchase a similar sign with a deer on it. R. Ball said that the costs of the signs can come out of the Conservation Fund because they have to do with maintaining the land.

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to expend the funds for the sign at the town forest. (6-0)

D. Naiva reminded the members that she had spoken to Mr. Schoenberger of the Tioga View Estates about putting up a sign to identify the town forest property. They also agreed to set some boulders to keep people on the trail. R. Ball said that he will speak with the Highway Department about putting the boulders there.

NEWSLETTER:

The members decided that they will put out another newsletter in April.

STAFF REPORT:**HUTCHINSON SITE PLAN-MAP 224 LOT 8:**

R. Ball talked with Jim Tarr about having monitoring wells on the site. He suggested it would be more appropriate to have some surface water monitoring. It was written into the Planning Board's approval and will be done a couple of times a year. They are allowed to wash no more than 30 cars a month.

STONINGTON HEIGHTS OPEN SPACE:

R. Ball told the members that Mr. Ladiou called him. He's interested in purchasing the last lot on Stonington Drive. Between this lot and the next one over is a ten foot easement to the open space. He approached him to get it extinguished. R. Ball told him that the only way would be to make an application to the Planning Board. He said that Mr. Ladiou is concerned about snowmobiles. R. Ball said that there are more logical places to get to the open space. K. Knowlton agreed that for anyone to access it would be by Edwards or Federal Street.

EAGLE SCOUT PROPOSAL:

K. Knowlton signed the Eagle Scout proposal for the kiosk in the town forest.

BEAN DAM:

Mr. Locke applied for a minimum impact expedited review. DES kicked it up to a higher level. In their letter to him they said that preliminary review of the file indicated that the application does not meet the rules for 30-day expedited review and will be reviewed as a standard application. He may need to submit more information before they can formally review the application.

OLD STATE ROAD:

R. Ball said that the town is going to be receiving an administrative order from DES to mitigate the sediment problem.

OTHER BUSINESS:**SILVER LAKE:**

Chairman Knowlton would like an update from the Silver Lake Association about their milfoil treatment. R. Ball said he would get in contact with them.

SITE WALK- MAP 228 LOTS 16 & 24.1:

Some of the members walked these properties on Thursday, August 30. S. Rolfe said it is a very nice upland and abuts the wetlands complex that flows into the Tioga River. The properties abut the common land on Upper Parish Settlement and could create a whole corridor from Brown Hill Road to the Bean Dam property.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. (6-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

