

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, June 06, 2007

Corner Meeting House

Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 7 p.m.

**BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by D. Naiva, it was voted to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2007 meeting as written. (5-0)

**JEFF MARDEN MEMORIAL PAINTING:**

R. Ball handed out copies of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting that discussed the Jeff Marden memorial painting. G. Wells-Kay stated that this is her project and she feels bad that when the family was at the Conservation meeting J. Pike suggested that the Conservation Commission ask the Board of Selectmen for \$800. When he was at the Board of Selectmen's meeting he did not support the proposal. She reminded the Commission that she originally was only asking for \$525 for the cost of the painting and it was at J. Pike's suggestion that they ask for \$800 to cover the additional cost for the reception. Now that the idea is not financially supported by the Board of Selectmen she feels that it has been squashed. K. Knowlton stated that it is not squashed. They just have to get the money some other way. He stated that J. Marden was a member of the Planning Board but doesn't think they have any money in the budget for this. G. Wells-Kay stated she didn't anticipate the money coming from the Town's budget in the first place but had envisioned raising the money from the Board members and town's people. She stated that the Conservation Commission has named the Town Forest and have started the scholarship for Jeff. K. Knowlton agreed but in order to expedite the process he suggested the Conservation Commission pay for the painting. They have \$4,200 in the project fund. G. Wells-Kay wanted to reiterate the fact that the painting with frame cost \$525. D. Naiva stated that she wanted to honor Jeff but does not want to go back to the Board of Selectmen with a new request. The Commission agreed that they did not want to go back to the Board of Selectmen.

**MOTION:** G. Wells-Kay moved to purchase the 16" x 20" framed painting for \$525 to honor Jeff Marden.

The motion was seconded by N. Wederski and carried. (5-0)

The Commission discussed paying for the reception at a future date. K. Knowlton wanted to know how much a reception would cost. G. Wells-Kay stated punch and cookies for 50 people would be about \$50. It was the consensus of the Commission to hang the painting at the Corner Meeting House where Jeff did a lot of his volunteering.

**KURTIS BARTLETT – EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:**

R. Ball explained that about a month ago Mr. Kurtis Bartlett contacted him about doing an Eagle Scout project. He would like to do something in the Town Forest for his project. Mr. Bartlett was unable to attend tonight's meeting because it is award night at Belmont High School. R. Ball suggested that a subcommittee could be formed to review the different project options that are available in the forest. Once the project is started then Mr. Bartlett could attend a Conservation meeting and update the Commission on the progress.

S. Rolfe agreed to be on the subcommittee with K. Knowlton. The Commission discussed four project options that Mr. Bartlett could do. One possible project could be building a kiosk with maps of the Town Forest and the Jeff Marden Forest Plaque. Another project could be to outline the different loops and add signage to them. S. Rolfe stated this could be a great opportunity to establish a handicap trail from the Wildlife Blvd parking area to the head waters of the pond. This might be too big of an undertaking for an Eagle Scout project because the path has to be 36" wide with ledge pack but they could discuss it with Mr. Bartlett. Another option could be a bridge over the small stream. R. Ball will have Mr. Bartlett contact K. Knowlton to discuss the different project options.

There was discussion on how fitting these projects would be in honor of Jeff Marden because he always enjoyed working for the kids. Boy Scout and Girl Scout projects done in the forest would be a tribute to Jeff.

**NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY:**

R. Ball handed out the NRI books and stated that there will be a Natural Resource Inventory presentation at their July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. He will invite the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen to the presentation. He also explained that there is a two hour training session prior to the presentation for anyone that is interested in it. It is a very basic Arc View program that can be used to incorporate data into the program. It was the consensus of the Commission to have R. Ball and S. Rolfe attend the training and they can present a workshop for anyone else that is interested in learning the program. R. Ball explained the Town has 1998 black/white aerials, 2003 color photography and 2007 color photography that they will have within the next month.

R. Ball stated that the Water Shed to Wildlife consultants were ecstatic with the amount of editing the Commission has done on the project. Most Commissions don't put as much effort into the project as Belmont has. They should be commended. G. Wells-Kay suggested that they contact the local newspapers and advise them of the upcoming NRI presentation. They can write a letter to the editor of the different local papers and have it posted on the Town's website advertising the July 11<sup>th</sup> presentation. They may also want to see if Lakes Region Public Access TV is interested in filming the presentation. Pictures from the NRI can

be posted on the walls and the PDF can be put on the website to spark interest in the project. A copy of the NRI will be given to the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen with more available to any member that is interested in it.

**NEWSLETTER:**

G. Wells-Kay provided the Commission with an outline of the Spring/Summer newsletter and explained that if it is completed by Monday June 11<sup>th</sup> it can be sent to the printer and be ready for distribution by the last week in June. This issue will focus on water. Some of the articles are from The Office of Energy and Planning Ground Water Protection Ordinance. S. Rolfe has contributed two articles and D. Naiva will contribute one. Anyone else who would like to contribute an article must have it in by Monday.

The Commission discussed the cost of producing the newsletter by comparing the cost of doing it in house or having it outsourced. They discussed the fact that the layout is inexpensive it is the printing that is costly. It was the consensus that they like the professional look that the last newsletter had. Due to the limited time they will continue to outsource this newsletter and in the future they will check into the possibility of having it done in house.

**STAFF REPORT:**

**JEFF MARDEN:**

R. Ball passed around a letter from Lakes Region Planning Commission expressing their sympathy for the loss of Jeff Marden.

**BEAN DAM:**

R. Ball explained that he has walked the Bean Dam with Mr. Jim Tarr and they got a clean environmental bill of health for the property. Mr. Locke is still working on getting the permits necessary for breaching the dam. The purchase and sale will not be affected by the delay in breaching the dam. Mr. Kevin Sturgeon stated that the Town should make sure the dam is breached before they take it over.

Mr. Sturgeon stated that he has walked the site of the old Badger Dam and it is scary. There is now a river there. Thousands of yards of silt have filled in down stream. Now there is a river running through the pond. He is concerned about what will happen when they breach the Bean dam. K. Knowlton stated that DES decides when they want to breach a dam. R. Ball stated that it usually is a result of the dam being unmaintained or a possibility that the dam will fail. G. Wells-Kay stated the owner has the responsibility to either repair or breach it. R. Ball stated that DES has no money to repair dams. It is DES opinion that a dam that doesn't have any economic function should be breached.

**GRAVEL PITS:**

R. Ball stated that the Planning Board received the Site Specific approval for Mr. George Merrill to reopen Parent's Pit. He will be going before the Planning Board on June 25<sup>th</sup> for site plan and earth excavation approval. They will not be excavating closer than 5' to the water table.

Blue Sky Enterprises has received Site Plan and Earth Excavation approval from the Planning Board to mine the old Person's Pit.

The review process has gone well for both pits. Mr. Gerry Lang has given them insight on stabilization.

**DREDGE AND FILL PERMITS:**

The Commission has received two Dredge and Fill permits for Mallard's Landing and another one on Lake Winnisquam.

**PLANNING RETREAT:**

R. Ball clarified that he is authorized to sign for the WHIP Funds. The Commission agreed that he has authorization to sign for the funds.

**AVAILABLE LAND:**

Mr. Sturgeon stated that he is aware of 60+ acres that may be available for the Conservation Commission to purchase for conservation land. It is in the floodplain and is on both sides of the Tioga River. The owner is interested in seeing it remain undeveloped. It is pasture land that sits on top of the aquifer. K. Knowlton stated that the Commission may be interested in the property but are limited on money and have to prioritize the land that they want to acquire. They work on purchasing property that connects to ones that they already own to make them contiguous. Mr. Sturgeon stated that this property would be contiguous with ones that they already own. K. Knowlton stated that there are other ways to preserve property besides purchasing the property. It could be acquired through gift giving or purchasing the development rights. Mr. Sturgeon stated that this property is an animal habitat, deer preserve and popular fishing area. R Ball stated that he will send the members a copy of the parcel. D. Naiva wanted to know if it is buildable. Mr. Sturgeon stated that there is sewer there. R. Ball stated that there also is a lot of water on the property.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**TOWN OWNED PROPERTY:**

S. Rolfe wanted to know about some Town owned property that abuts the common land on Upper Parish Settlement. R. Ball explained that it is tax lot 228-016 and is an old gravel pit and NH DOT. The Commission discussed the need to protect the drainage flowing into the Tioga River. If the Town should take it for back taxes they may want to have a plan in place to go to the Board of Selectmen for the Conservation Commission to acquire the property because of co-occurrence on the property and the importance it has to the water shed.

**FIELD DAY:**

The Conservation Commission members will meet Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> to walk the Bean Dam. They will meet at the end of Wild Acres Road at 8 am.

**COVIELLO PROPERTY TAX LOT 212-067:**

D. Naiva wanted to know if there is any additional information on what Mr. Coviello is proposing to do with his property on Durrell Mountain Road. R. Ball stated that he will be coming in with a proposal for either a manufactured home park or manufactured home subdivision. They will be allowed two units per acre.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:38p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine M. Murphy