

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, April 7, 2010
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present:	Chairman Ken Knowlton, Denise Naiva, Keith Bennett Carol Fairfield
Members Absent:	David Morse(u), Ward Peterson(u), Scott Rolfe(e)
Alternates Absent:	Mark Lewandoski(u), Brent O'Brien(e), Magnus McLetchie(u)
Staff:	Rick Ball, Denise Rollins

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

D. Naiva suggested to the members present that they postpone the election of officers until the May meeting until more members are present. The members agreed.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by K. Bennett, seconded by C. Fairfield, the members voted to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2010 and March 3, 2010 meetings as written. (4-0)

RULES OF PROCEDURE:

R. Ball sent the members revised copies of the rules of procedure. He asked if the members had any additions or edits for it. D. Naiva asked the members if they would consider beginning the meetings at 6:00 pm instead of 7:00 pm. The members present thought it was a good idea. They decided to wait until the next meeting to vote on the rules of procedure so they can talk to the absent members about the meeting time change.

AQUATIC RESOURCE MITIGATION GRANT (ARM):

R. Ball said that he received the Proposed Invasive Species Management Plan from Stoney Ridge Environmental (SRE) for the Tioga River Wildlife & Conservation Area property. He gave the members copies to look at during the meeting and will send them a pdf of the plan. He said that Tracey Tarr of SRE walked the property and found an infestation of glossy buckthorn. The plan explains how to eradicate some of it and try to keep it from spreading. There are three areas on the property where it is the worst. There is a 25 acre place in the middle where it is dominant. If they don't do something the glossy buckthorn eventually will take over.

Because of the predominance of wetlands, chemical treatments can't be used. Mechanical removal offers the most practical long-term management option. D. Naiva asked if there will be a disruption to the land if they use the methods that are identified in the plan. R. Ball said that any where outside of the parking area hand held brush saws can be used. In the upland areas of the property a "Brontosaurus" brushcutter is recommended. They'll have to keep going back and pull up the sprouts and keep the stumps knocked down. It is recommended that shrubs be cut at least twice a year for three years.

D. Naiva said that some of the problems associated with the glossy buckthorn are that it interferes with the habitat of nesting birds and the berries contain a resin that acts as a laxative in fruit-eating birds. It can grow up to twenty feet high and can outcompete native fruit bearing shrubs.

R. Ball said it will be a lot of work for the Commission. He asked them if they have decided if they want to go after the grant or not. The deadline to apply for it is April 30. If they don't then the members have to decide what to do about the glossy buckthorn.

K. Knowlton advocated for preventing it from spreading. The members agreed. R. Ball said he will get an estimate on how much it will cost to implement the proposed management plan. The members then can decide how much the Commission wants to match for the grant.

TOWN FOREST TRAIL:

R. Ball said that he heard from Mike Lynch of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. R. Ball said that Mr. Lynch didn't like the Commission's riprap and bridge idea. Their plan is to have a spillway with 12 to 1 sides and riprap 10-20 feet wide. Mr. Lynch said their plan will need too much maintenance. His thought was to put on some type of pavers. D. Naiva said that since the Commission is responsible for the maintenance she feels that their plan is the way to go to meet the needs of the physically disabled. K. Knowlton agreed that the bridge makes more sense for reasonable accessibility factor. D. Naiva said that it would be more aesthetically pleasing than 50 feet of concrete. The members agreed. R. Ball will let Mr. Lynch know what the Commission members would like to do.

STAFF REPORT:**BELKNAP COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT:**

R. Ball told the members that Lisa Morin will be attending their next meeting. She is the Coordinator for the Belknap County Conservation District and would like to meet with the Commission to discuss how BCCD can best serve the Town of Belmont.

BUDGET:

R. Ball told the members that the expenses have been \$57.11 for the recording of the Meyers plan and \$4,200 for the survey of the Meyers property in which they received \$1,000 back at the closing. They also paid \$275 to the attorney for the Meyers closing and \$1,506.32 to Stoney Ridge Environmental for the management plan.

MEYERS PROPERTY:

R. Ball told the members that they closed on the Meyers property. The members agreed to continue calling it Pop's Woods.

BEAN DAM:

R. Ball attended a meeting with Jim Locke, the Dam Bureau and the Wetlands Bureau about the plan for breaching the dam. He said that it looks like it's finally going to happen and the plan is going to be approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:**BOY SCOUT PROJECT:**

K. Bennett said that he put 4 duck boxes in the town forest and 6 in the Sanborn Farm property. He'll be putting the bird houses out next week.

JEFF MARDEN SCHOLARSHIP:

C. Fairfield asked the members for ideas on how to get contributions to the conservation scholarship. They suggested she send letters to local businesses asking for donations. K. Knowlton thought she could write an article for the local newspapers. D. Naiva said they could get more information out about it at Old Home Day since the theme this year is conservation.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by C. Fairfield, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

