

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Corner Meeting House

Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

G. Wells-Kay wanted it to be reflected in the minutes that there was a public participation at the Natural Resources Inventory presentation by Watershed to Wildlife. Since approximately 20 people did attend the public presentation the minutes should be amended to include this information.

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, the members voted to approve the amended minutes of the July 11, 2007 meeting as written. (4-0)

KURTIS BARTLETT – UPDATE ON EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

Since Kurtis Bartlett was not present at the meeting the members could not get an update. K. Knowlton did see a kiosk recently that he liked that has 4 sides each 4 x 4. He took a picture of it and will discuss it at the next meeting.

2008 PROJECTS:

S. Rolfe told the members that the sign for the Tioga River Wildlife Conservation Area will cost \$1,400 installed. It is a routed sign and he is going to add a river in front of the trees. The members discussed whether they had the funds to purchase it at this time. C. Daigle told them that they have \$2,100 left in their projects fund. They still need to pay for the printing of the newsletter that was just sent out. G. Wells-Kay said that there is \$500 left from the grassroots grant to be used for that. C.

Daigle told them that they also have some money left in their general expense account so they should have enough to pay for the sign.

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by N. Wederski, the members voted to expend the funds for the Tioga Rive Wildlife Conservation Area sign on Route 140. (4-0)

G. Wells-Kay said that she assumed the members would go over the Natural Resources Inventory and consider their list of recommendations. She wondered if they should start on a comprehensive aquifer protection ordinance. C. Daigle said that the Planning Board has agreed to let her draft one. It's just a matter of time to do it. K. Knowlton said that the Commission was very interested in taking part in it when it came up before. He said they should wait and see what direction the Planning Board is going in then they could add or subtract to it. C. Daigle said she will put together a draft then she would bring it to the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board. She felt that it would be more effective use of the Commission's time if they have something to start with. She is going to recommend to the Planning Board that they get it on the ballot. It can be amended in the future. It can be made more stringent later. She said that one of the main difficulties in crafting the ordinance is there are two types. One is very restrictive and you prohibit everything. That's similar to what was previously petitioned. The other one some things can be permitted and conditions can be put on site plan approvals. Those two methods are distinctly different. The petitioners didn't believe there is a safe method to operate on the aquifer. She said she could take two or three items from that petition and get them worded in a more compromising manner. K. Knowlton suggested that the members wait for the draft. He said it is up to the Planning Board to do the research and put something together. Their input could help them fine tune it. Their place is to advise the Planning Board. They have told people that they are very interested in it and it's coming. G. Wells-Kay feels that this is a very important natural resource and they should have a proactive stance rather than a reactive one. C. Daigle said that a draft with both the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board recommendations will be better. K. Knowlton said that as a community Belmont has more aquifer and as a Conservation Commission they have to be concerned with it. They have to be careful not to sacrifice the town's drinking water. They need to balance what they feel and what the Planning Board is doing.

G. Wells-Kay noted that in the NRI – Executive Summary there are many things listed that they could do in terms of projects. An in-depth inventory of vernal pools, document wetland locations and take steps to protect groundwater, brooks and aquifers are some of the ones listed. The members discussed inventorying the wetlands as a first step. K. Knowlton said they need some sort of direction and what it will cost to do this so they can plan for next year. They will be discussing this and other projects at their next meeting.

2008 BUDGET:

C. Daigle said that they have \$8000 for professional services and that will stay the same for 2008. The general expense line will stay the same at \$1100. They had \$4200 for projects this year. They need to look at this and decide if they need an adjustment, if this is sufficient and they want to continue with it or expand it for some specific reason. She said they need the budget finalized by September 5 but since their next meeting is September 5 she will see if they can extend the date to September 6. K. Knowlton asked about the capital money. She reminded the members that they

withdrew their request last year because the town had many financial expenditures. K. Knowlton said the Commission should continue with this view point that the town is fairly strapped. C. Daigle told the members that they should be getting a substantial amount of money from current use this year. S.Rolfe said it could be used to conserve open space.

STAFF REPORT:

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

C. Daigle showed the members some samples of the aerial photographs that were taken as part of the road inventory project.

OLD STATE ROAD:

C. Daigle told the members that they may be interested in attending the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday at 6:00. They will be discussing an environmental issue. She said that last year the town had a road management plan done which prioritized all the roads. Cotton Hill Road and Old State Road were shown to be a priority. The Budget Committee did not want to fund the improvements on Old State Road because it is not a well traveled road. The DES has concerns about Old State Road. The road causes a huge plume sediment that goes into Lake Winnisquam. There could be fines of up to \$2000 a day if the road is not improved. She said there are minimum engineering and safety standards that have to be done. Closed drainage from the top to the bottom will have to be done. She said there are a lot of reasons to improve a road other than having a lot of traffic on it. She suggested that if the members were concerned about the environment they should attend the meeting. Jeanne Beaudin has written a letter to the Board of Selectmen letting them know of the situation and it will be discussed at their meeting.

DROUIN PROPERTY - MAP 116 LOT 43:

They have submitted a dredge and fill application to gain access to the 18 acres of backland that they purchased. R. Ball has written a letter to the State of NH and the Drouins. He recommended that the Conservation Commission not oppose the application but to go on record to the state that there may be more significant issues that will arise because of this approval and the Wetlands Bureau should address them in it's approval.

PROTECTED LAND MAPS:

C. Daigle gave the members maps of the conservation property in Belmont both public and private. She noted that Mooneys open space property on Stonington Drive is not theirs yet. It is tied up with the acceptance of Stonington Drive. Mr. Mooney said that he is going to give them the property at the same time.

WJK REALTY – MAP 224 LOT 38:

C. Daigle said that M. Lewandowski feels that the Conservation Commission should have an interest in this site. They have a permit to display and sell cars and after market parts. The previous owner just wanted to display cars. The present owner has submitted a site plan to expand the

vehicle display area and add vehicle washing and vehicle service uses. They will be allowed to wash up to 30 cars a week per DES's Surface Water Discharge Permit. It's a permitted use. The state accepts vegetative filtering for that activity. Other than the vehicle washing it's just a parking lot. The members are concerned with the wetlands area on the property. K. Knowlton said he can see potential problems. Everything is going into the detention pond. K. Knowlton asked if they could require them to have a monitoring well. C. Daigle said she will call Jim Tarr of Corporate Environmental for his professional opinion. K. Knowlton said he would like to know if a monitoring well would be advantageous or not.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

