

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, December 2, 2009
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present:	Chairman Ken Knowlton, Denise Naiva, David Morse, Scott Rolfe, Carol Fairfield (7:15)
Members Absent:	Keith Bennett(u), Ward Peterson(u)
Alternates Present:	Magnus McLetchie,
Alternates Absent:	Mark Lewandoski(u), B. O'Brien(e)
Staff:	Rick Ball, Denise Rollins

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. He appointed M. McLetchie as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 7:02 p.m in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II(d). Those agreed were S. Rolfe, D. Naiva, M. McLetchie, C. Fairfield and D. Morse.

The members agreed to come out of non-public session at 7:35 p.m.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by C. Fairfield, the members voted to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2009 meeting as written. (5-0) D. Morse abstained.

MEETING WITH SELECTMEN:

K. Knowlton said that he attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting on October 19 along with D. Naiva and C. Fairfield. The members discussed the Conservation Commission's activity with the Board and brought them up to date. He told the Board about the Town Forest project and that it is

nearing completion.

K. Knowlton said he told the Board about them wanting to put a Conservation easement on the Tioga River Wildlife property through Fiver Rivers. He told the Board that the Commission felt that this would add more protection to the property. He felt it was a positive meeting with the Board.

D. Naiva agreed.

D. Naiva asked about the status of the easement with Five Rivers. R. Ball said that now that they know how the Board of Selectmen feel about it they can go ahead with it. They can have the town attorney get together with the attorney for Five Rivers and discuss the arbitration clause. He said he will get in touch with Sarah Pillsbury and let her know they want to proceed. The members agreed that this is what they want to do.

BIOSOLIDS/SLUDGE:

Chairman Knowlton wanted to find out each member's opinion and where they stood about biosolids. The Planning Board is holding a public hearing on December 14 at 7 p.m. concerning the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance about Biosolids. They are proposing to prohibit the application of Class B biosolids and to permit the application of Class A in the Rural Zone of areas a minimum of 5 acres in size by a Conditional Use Permit issued by the Planning Board. This would eliminate the requirement for a Special Exception.

D. Naiva said that she wished she had been present for the presentation. She felt that it is better to err on the side of caution and said there is not enough known about biosolids to allow the change. M. McLetchie said that the alternative would be to dump it at sea or incinerate it. He said that burning it requires a lot of energy. S. Rolfe felt that burning it is the safest way to dispose of it. M. McLetchie said it should be allowed. There are setbacks from bodies of waters and the way it is stored. He said that manure has been spread for hundreds of years with no regulations at all.

D. Morse said that he remembers biosolids being discussed by the Planning Board about ten years ago. He asked what the advantages are for using it. R. Ball said it is free nitrogen and phosphorous. It is not considered organic fertilizer.

S. Rolfe said that he read the Cornell study and would not want it on his land or his neighbors' land. There is no control over what goes into the wastewater treatment plant and he thinks the amount of testing is fairly negligible. Animal manure doesn't have the elements that biosolids do.

K. Knowlton said that he read everything he could find about biosolids. He said that high levels of nitrogen worries him and that most of the farms in Belmont that want to use it are located on the aquifer. C. Fairfield agreed that the biggest problem is there is no protection for the aquifer.

C. Fairfield said that the Planning Board is going to go forward with the change unless there is opposition. They are gaining ground by saying no to Class B biosolids.

S. Rolfe said they could restrict the use to outside the aquifer zone. D. Naiva said they could further restrict it from open water.

K. Knowlton suggested they go with what the Planning Board has proposed but added they do not permit application within the aquifer protection zone.

C. Fairfield showed the members a list of the towns and if they allow biosolids. D. Morse said that the nearby towns have banned it and we have to protect our town.

MOTION: On a motion by D. Morse, seconded by C. Fairfield, the members voted to recommend to the Planning Board for the total prohibition of the application of all types of biosolids in Belmont. (6-0)

C. Fairfield and K. Knowlton said they would draft a statement from the Conservation Commission to the Planning Board telling them of their decision and the reasons why. D. Naiva agreed that the more information they can give the Planning Board prior to the public hearing will be helpful.

AQUIFER PROTECTION:

R. Ball wanted the members to know about the public hearing that the Planning Board is holding concerning the proposed amendment to the Zoning Board about the aquifer. It will add Tilton-Northfield and Belmont's municipal well-head protection areas to the Aquifer Ordinance and retitle the Ordinance to Groundwater Protection Ordinance. He said the Planning Board will discuss it at the December 14th public hearing.

BEAN DAM:

The members received copies of the proposed plan to breach the Bean Dam.

STAFF REPORT:

CONSERVATION FUND:

R. Ball told the members that \$241,778 is due to be deposited into the fund for the land use change tax for this year. He said they had approximately \$30,000 in there already.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

