

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, December 3, 2008
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

Vice Chairman Naiva opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by S. Rolfe, the members voted to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2008 and October 20, 2008 meetings as written. (4-0)

D. Naiva wanted it noted in the minutes that there wasn't a quorum at the November 5 meeting. Therefore there weren't any minutes to review.

O'CONNOR GRAVEL PIT:

Sean and John O'Connor of John O'Connor Sand & Gravel LLC were present. R. Ball told the members that their gravel pit has already been approved by the Planning Board. It has been a gravel pit since the early 1930's and is located on Route 107 across from the old spring. The current operation is on the whole front of the property. They submitted an excavation permit to finish and reclaim the areas that they are already working in and also submitted a plan for the next phases. Their plan is for the next 15 years. With the new permitting process they need to get repermited every couple of years. Every 6 years they will need to reapply which will require a new plan. At the end of the 15 years they will loam, seed and revegetate the entire property. W. Peterson said that their pit has been in existence but is now coming into compliance. It is located in the aquifer zone. R. Ball said they have a quality assurance plan in place. They will be building a fueling spill containment on the site. The sites are graded so that

the run off does not exit the property. He told the members in the future the first step will be to send new applicants to the Conservation Commission before they go to the Planning Board.

ANDREW SANBORN FARM:

D. Naiva said that R. Ball has started to rough out a stewardship plan based on a lot of the foundations they currently have. He used the town forest stewardship plan as a guideline and changed some names from it. D. Naiva asked the members if they had any concerns or questions about the draft plan. G. Wells-Kay wondered if they should allow disabled hunters to use atvs. She said that maybe they should also be thinking in terms of all their conservation lands and develop a conservation ordinance that would cover all the properties. M. Lewandoski said that they need to be careful. If they make any offer to a certain type of wheeled vehicle they may have to maintain a road that's suitable for that vehicle. He said it's all in the wording of what they will allow for the type of vehicle. They will need to maintain a travel area for it. S. Rolfe suggested that they allow if someone is handicapped and wants to use an atv then it is permitted. D. Naiva said they should seek counsel regarding liability and how they should word it.

D. Naiva said the members need to keep in mind the presentation from November 5 about wildlife habitat and co-occurrences. Each conservation land will have their own unique characteristics which they need to consider when they look at each property. The first step is to do an inventory and make their decisions based on this. She proposed that before they go any further they should do an inventory. They should look at the contours, wildlife, vegetation and water.

D. Naiva asked the members if they had any comments on naming the property. S. Rolfe said that he likes the existing name because of it's historical background connection with it. The members agreed to keep the name.

W. Peterson suggested they change the language on atv, not to allow access but give the option to allow someone to create a trail. D. Naiva said that it's different than a cross country ski trail. They need to look at what they have and decide the property's use. They need to set up guidelines in the best interest of the property.

R. Ball told the members that Keith Bennett who lives on Rogers Road has offered to hay the field for the Commission if he can keep the hay. D. Naiva suggested that they invite him to attend a meeting to talk to them about his proposal. The members discussed whether haying the fields every year would be good for the property or doing it every other year. R. Ball told the members that open fields is a key habitat according to the wildlife action plan. There are 8 acres of field.

STAFF REPORT:

BUDGET:

R. Ball told the members that they presently have \$2,129 in their Professional Services line. The legal fees, environmental assessment and appraisal of the Andrew Sanborn Farm property came out of this line. The balance of their Conservation Projects line is \$5,800.

TOWN FOREST BEAVER DAM:

R. Ball said he talked to Mike Lynch about the beaver dam. He will be meeting with him to

discuss alternatives.

FIVE RIVERS CONSERVATION TRUST:

R. Ball said that they will be discussing the Tioga River Wildlife Conservation Area at their December meeting.

WETLANDS INVENTORY:

R. Ball told the members that Stoney Ridge Environmental will be at their January meeting to present their preliminary findings.

OTHER BUSINESS:

GRANT APPLICATION:

D. Naiva said that they need a certificate of vote to apply for the NH Trails Bureau Grant. She said it is a vote to agree to apply for these funds. R. Ball will have it put on the Selectmen's agenda to do this. She said they also need letters of support from the community. G. Wells- Kay will ask Jeff Marden's parents to write one. D. Naiva will ask the senior center to also write one. The members went over any additional information they made need for the grant application.

S. Rolfe drafted a letter to be sent to local businesses to request donations of material for the universal access outdoor recreation trail.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

