

## Conservation Commission

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Corner Meeting House

Belmont, New Hampshire

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

Chairman K. Knowlton opened the meeting at 7: 03p.m. He appointed S. Rolfe and M. McLetchie as voting members for tonight's meeting.

### **BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by M. McLetchie, seconded by S. Rolfe, the members voted to approve the minutes of the November 1 meeting as written. (4-0)

### **SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION:**

Chairman Knowlton said that the Commission members have been making inquiries about the use of 2,4-D and have asked someone from Fish & Games to come in to get their position on milfoil eradication. He wanted to get more information before the Commission members decide to put money into or recommend that money be given to the treatment of milfoil in Silver Lake. John Viar is a fisheries biologist assigned to Region 2 based in New Hampton. He is an avid angler who lives in Belmont and has fished in Silver Lake quite a bit. He stated that the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) is mandated by RSA 206:10 "to protect, propagate and preserve the fish, game and wildlife resources of the state (RSA 207:1 defines wildlife as "all species of mammals, birds, fish, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians, invertebrates, reptiles or their progeny or eggs which, whether raised in captivity or not, are normally found in a wild state"). As a result the NHFGD is obligated to ensuring its actions are in compliance with this legislative mandate.

New Hampshire's aquatic environments are a critical component to many wildlife species of the State and so maintaining the quality of the aquatic habitat is important to the NHFGD's mission. Aquatic vegetation is an important element of functioning fish and wildlife habitat. Native milfoil provides shelter for fish and zooplankton and is a food source for waterfowl.

They are concerned about the increased amount of chemicals being used. Until more definitive research is done a precautionary approach needs to be taken. Chemical treatments need to be limited as much as possible. He gave examples where some areas have been treated 5-7 times. The number of treatments is growing. He questioned how many times do you go back with the chemicals. He said the

volume of information about milfoil eradication and 2,4-D is overwhelming. The 2,4-D treatment is supposed to kill the entire plant including the root system, but that doesn't seem to be happening.

There has been a group of chemicals detected in the nation's waters. No one really knows what this chemical "cocktail" is doing and what it will do. Particular attention has been made on the effects of these pesticide mixtures on the endocrine systems in aquatic wildlife. Until more definitive research is completed, reducing the direct application of pesticide into surface waters is likely to be an effective way to reduce their concentrations in the hydrologic system and thereby lessen the potential for adverse effects on aquatic life and fish-eating wildlife.

There is only a certain habitat where milfoil will grow. It grows at depths of 3-8 feet. Other plants are commonly misidentified as milfoil. When the applicator hits these areas it may hit a lot of the native species. Treatments are occurring at the same time that the fish are spawning.

Chairman Knowlton thanked Mr. Viar for his information. He said he hoped his presentation has been helpful to the members. He said they will not be making any decisions tonight since there are 5 members not in attendance.

### **MOUNTAIN LAKE VILLAGE:**

R. Ball told the members that he walked the property with D. Naiva and G. Wells-Kay. They did a property evaluation checklist on the property and suggest that the members vote to accept it. K. Knowlton is concerned that it will need to be monitored because the Laconia portion of the subdivision is a very dense area. The property is going to be the back yard to quite a few residents. He would like the property corners denoted. S. Rolfe asked if the Commission could make some stipulations. R. Ball said they could. The members would like to have the property lines blazed and painted and if there are existing access roads they should be gated or blocked. They asked if they should do a stewardship plan. R. Ball thought that Atty. Brouillard may have done one already. He will look into it. S. Rolfe asked who would determine the wording on the easement. They decided that another stipulation would be that they would require acceptable stewardship easement wording. K. Knowlton said that an environmental site easement also needs to be done.

**MOTION:** On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by B. Watterson, the members voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they accept the Mountain Lake Village open space with the following stipulations: property lines bounded, blazed and painted, existing access roads to be gated or blocked, an environmental site assessment to be done and there needs to be acceptable stewardship easement wording. (4-0)

### **STONINGTON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION:**

K. Knowlton, S. Rolfe, M. McLetchie and D. Naiva walked this property and did an evaluation checklist. K. Knowlton said that they all agreed that this is a very lucrative piece of property. There are 87 acres and it plays an important role to other parcels of undeveloped land. They also agreed that there be stipulations as part of accepting it.

**MOTION:** On a motion by B. Watterson, seconded by S. Rolfe, the members voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they accept the Stonington Heights open space with the following stipulations: property lines bounded, blazed and painted and an environmental site assessment be done. (4-0)

**STAFF REPORT:**

**NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:**

R. Ball told the members he has received a draft copy of the Natural Resource Inventory. He would like all the Conservation Commission members to read it so they can discuss it at their next meeting in January.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER:**

R. Ball told the members that the newsletter has been sent out. The cost for it was \$1,570. The grant received for \$1,000 from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund will be used to cover some of the cost.

**TRI-TOWN AQUIFER:**

The Lakes Region Planning Commission will be making a presentation on the Aquifer Guide Book at the Belmont Planning Board's meeting on Monday, December 11.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**STATE OWNED LAND:**

Mr. Richard Fournier told the members that the state is taking land that they own out of conservation and leasing it to the homeowners. It is undeveloped land and is located on the lake side of the railroad tracks. He feels the Conservation Commission should stand up and say they don't want anyone to lease it. He says it's an issue that needs to be addressed. The members discussed that possibly they could come up with some kind of article for a warrant and get the town to vote advise the state to keep this land undeveloped.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by B. Watterson, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise Rollins