

Conservation Commission

Wednesday January 3, 2007
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 6:56 p.m. He appointed S. Rolfe and M. McLetchie as voting members for tonight's meeting.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by K. Knowlton, it was voted to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2006 meeting as written. (5-0)

SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION:

Chairman Knowlton asked the members their feelings on whether they should grant the Silver Lake Association (SLA) \$1,750 to be used for the eradication of milfoil. D. Naiva said that as a member of the Conservation Commission and as a health care provider she could not recommend that the Commission spend money on chemical treatment. After researching 2,4D she still has concerns and questions about using it and doesn't want to see down the line health risks being discovered. M. McLetchie said that the use of something as potent as 2,4D in a public water bothered him. When it breaks down the byproducts can be more harmful and there is no guarantee that one shot will take care of it. He said he is concerned about the use of herbicides and pesticides near water. He doesn't want to see it being used under any circumstances. N. Wederski said she felt the same and is also concerned with the use of chemicals in the lake. S. Rolfe felt that because of the unknowns he didn't feel they should fund it. K. Knowlton said that as a member he would feel more comfortable if they were funding the hand pulling.

John Cambray of the SLA told the members that they also have concerns about using chemicals. They hope it will be a one time treatment. They have volunteer and paid divers who will be trained by DES on how to remove the milfoil correctly. DES approves their plan and will be monitoring it. They would rather use a little bit now and take care of it. It's over six acres now.

Since the members objected to the use of 2,4D K. Knowlton asked them if they would approve funding hand pulling or other non-chemical treatments. After further discussion the members agreed.

MOTION: On a motion by M. McLetchie, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to grant \$1,750 to the Silver Lake Association for the eradication of milfoil to be used for hand pulling or other non-chemical treatment. (5-0)

Chairman Knowlton told the SLA members that he would like to see what type of commitment they receive from the other members and residents of Silver Lake.

TERRA FIRMA SUBDIVISION:

Sam Drye of Granite State Engineering was present to show the members the final subdivision layout. He said the original application had a roadway that went completely through to Route 107 and had 40,000 square feet of wetlands impact. The impact is now one-third of what it was originally. He wanted to get the members opinion and have them recommend it to the Planning Board and the Wetlands Board. R. Ball said that when the subdivision got changed he submitted a letter stating that this was the Commission's preference to have it this way and all of their concerns have been addressed.

MOONEY – OPEN SPACE:

R. Ball told the members that Mr. Mooney didn't like the idea of him giving land and having to pay for an environmental assessment and land surveying to be done on it. He said that he would withdraw his offer if the members insist that he have it done. K. Knowlton told the members they need to consider if this piece of property is worth it. The members discussed this and agreed it was.

MOTION: On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by N. Wederski, the members voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they accept Mr. Mooney's open space property with no conditions. (5-0)

PROPOSED CC WARRANT ARTICLE:

R. Ball said that from Mr. Fournier's suggestion from last month's meeting he wrote an advisory warrant article for the members to approve. It states:

To see if the Town will vote to recommend to the New Hampshire General Court:
Resolved, in order to preserve the limited amount of undeveloped shoreline remaining in the State, the voters of Belmont urge the New Hampshire General Court to enact legislation to prohibit the current practice of leasing State-owned Land to abutting land owners for access to Public Waters and to allow the leases currently in effect to terminate at their ending date and to not be renewed.

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by N. Wederski, the members voted to recommend this warrant article as written to the Board of Selectmen for the town meeting. (5-0)

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY:

The members decided to postpone the discussion of the draft document of the Natural Space Inventory until next month's meeting so all the members can have a chance to read it.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 8:05 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II.(d). Those agreed were M. McLetchie, Sr. Rolfe, D. Naiva, N. Wederski, K. Knowlton.

The members came out of non-public session at 9:05 p.m.

MOTION: On a motion by M. McLetchie, seconded by N. Wederski, the members voted to purchase the Bean Dam property for \$125,000. (5-0)

STAFF REPORT:**CONSERVATION FUND:**

R. Ball told the members that the conservation fund balance will be \$271,930 after the land use change tax is added to it.

WORKSHOPS:

The Land Resource Management Workshop is scheduled for January 12, February 15 or March 21 at DES. The Smart Growth Program Series will be at the Prescott Farm Audubon Center in Laconia on January 11, January 24 and February 15.

AQUIFER PROTECTION PETITION:

R. Ball told the members that the Planning Board will be holding a public hearing on January 29 about the aquifer protection ordinance. He said that it is poorly written and will be difficult to administer. The petition rezones most of the Industrial zone into an aquifer protection zone but doesn't establish any specific uses permitted on the zone. There are absolutely no standards delineated in it.

OTHER BUSINESS:**MEMBER RESIGNATION:**

Chairman Knowlton told the members that he received a letter of resignation from Mark Lewandoski. He would like to remain on the Commission as an alternate member but could not continue on as a full member. He suggested to the members that they consider S. Rolfe to replace him as a full member. K. Knowlton said he would like to keep M. Lewandoski on as an alternate and would recommend to the Selectmen that S. Rolfe become a full member.

TAX MAP 234 LOT 02:

S. Rolfe told the members this property is up for sale and thought they should look into it. It's located on Route 140 and borders Northfield. There are 9 acres and the price is \$24,000. D. Naiva said they should walk the property and evaluate it. K. Knowlton, D. Naiva, Sr. Rolfe and M. McLetchie will schedule a time to do this.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins