

## Conservation Commission

Wednesday, January 6, 2010  
Corner Meeting House  
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and appointed M. McLetchie as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cythia DeRoy was present to swear in C. Fairfield as a member of the Conservation Commission.

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

**MOTION:** On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by C. Fairfield, the members voted to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting as written. (7-0)

### **OLD HOME DAY:**

Greta Olson-Wilder of the Old Home Day committee was present to talk to the members about ideas for Old Home Day on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is Conservation. She said their committee would like to do some activities in May, June and July as a prelude to Old Home Day such as a birdhouse building workshop. Other ideas are a tree identification tour or bird watching in the town forest. They're looking for any help that the Conservation Commission members can give for these activities. She said that the Squam Lakes Science Center will be doing two shows with live animals on Old Home Day. D. Naiva suggested they could contact the Audubon Society. K. Knowlton thought maybe a cross country road race through the town forest is an idea. Ms. Olson-Wilder said the

committee would like to combine tours of the town forest with the beach as they are assets of the community that are being under utilized. K. Knowlton suggested a bus trip to the Andrew Sanborn Farm property to show people where it is and what is there. S. Rolfe said they could do a walk of the property. K. Knowlton would like to let people know about the properties that the town has purchased and that they are out there for their use. Ms. Olson-Wilder thanked the members and told them that any assistance they can give the Old Home Day committee would be appreciated.

### **BIOSOLIDS/SLUDGE:**

R. Ball told the members that the public hearing is over and the Planning Board members will be talking on Monday at their work session to decide on whether they will amend the zoning ordinance to ban the use of all biosolids. K. Knowlton said the Planning Board members have three options. One option is that they could decide to support the petition. The other option is they do not support the petition and put nothing against the petition article and their last option is to vote to say they are not in support of the petition and amend the zoning ordinance to ban biosolids in Belmont. R. Ball said that the petition came about when RMI and some landowners asked the Planning Board to put a question on the ballot to permit Class A biosolids. The Planning Board decided not to do that and started talking about banning them altogether.

C. Fairfield said she wasn't sure what they can do at this time but felt that they should respond at least once more to the Planning Board. D. Morse said the members did a great job with presenting their information about biosolids at the public hearing. S. Rolfe said that the people of the town should be given a choice of either getting rid of it or still allowing it. He said that they potentially have over 400 acres that can be contaminated. M. McLetchie said that it only deals with a very small problem of the overall problem. People put fertilizers on their lawns. He supports the farmers' right to use biosolids but would like to see more regulations.

K. Knowlton didn't think anyone on the Commission has changed their position on biosolids. Biosolids are not good for the aquifer. There is scientific evidence that it is not good for the environment or peoples' health. If the Planning Board does decide to do nothing and doesn't support the petition and doesn't put anything against it the members will need to educate the public. They need to wait and see what the Planning Board decides to do. If they should decide to oppose the petition and not go for complete ban as citizens they have to stop the petition article from passing. They have some expertise behind them. S. Rolfe is a forester, D. Naiva is a health care provider, C. Fairfield is an oceanographer and D. Morse is a Selectman. K. Knowlton is familiar with junkyards and the problems they can cause. K. Knowlton said the members can discuss it further after they find out the Planning Board's decision.

### **STAFF REPORT:**

#### **CONSERVATION FUNDS:**

R. Ball told the members that \$241,778 from the land use change tax has been deposited into the conservation fund along with the unexpended money of \$6,680. The fund had a previous balance of \$30,000. There will be a balance of approximately \$163,000 after the purchase of the Meyers property.

**GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWAL:**

R. Ball gave the members a copy of a letter from HydroSource Associates, inc. to the Board of Selectmen stating that Mr. Laurent Gilbert is moving forward on his water extraction. He has submitted an application to the NHDES to obtain a permit under the regulations governing Groundwater Sources of Bottled Water. He proposes to withdraw water from a well on property he owns on Shaker Road Belmont at a maximum rate of 56,160 gallons per day and to truck the water to an offsite location for bottling.

R. Ball said that the Planning Board can only review the site itself, the driveway, small well house and possibly a tank. When Mr. Gilbert did come before the Planning Board they could only look at the site not at the water extraction. The state says towns cannot regulate groundwater withdrawals.

The members were concerned about the trucks coming from the site daily and the weight on the town owned roads.

**GRANTS:**

R. Ball said with the Commission's permission he is applying for an Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund grant to help pay for the conservation easement and restoring of the disturbed wetland on the Tioga River Wildlife and Conservation Area.

He also said that they will be receiving a grant check for \$618 that will cover all of the Town money spent for the accessible recreational trail in the Jeff Marden Town Forest.

**OTHER BUSINESS:****SURVEY FOR MEYERS PROPERTY:**

R. Ball told the members that he has received 3 quotes for the survey of the Meyers property. They are \$4,200 from HE Johnson Inc., \$9,500 from Paul Darbyshire and \$15,580 from Steve Smith Assoc. \$1,000 will be reimbursed as the Meyers share of the survey.

**MOTION:** On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by S. Rolfe the members voted to expend \$4,200 to have the survey done on the Meyers property (Map 214 Lot 14). (7-0)

**PROPERTY ON MAIN STREET:**

D. Morse told the members that the Board of Selectmen is pursuing the acquisition of the bank property on Main Street this year. They feel it is a valued green space and are soliciting committees to see if they support the acquisition. He said it would help them in the warrant article that it isn't just capital money that will be used. The library is contributing \$15,000. He asked if the Conservation Commission could be part of the warrant article by also contributing possibly \$10,000. This way the warrant article would show a unified effort. The members discussed this possibility but nothing was decided at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by C. Fairfield, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise Rollins

