

## Conservation Commission

Wednesday, July 2, 2008  
Corner Meeting House  
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and appointed M. McLetchie as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

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

**MOTION:** On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2008 meeting as written. (5-0)

### **TIOGA RIVER WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA:**

R. Ball told the members that he has spoken with Stacey Herbold of DES Wetlands Bureau. According to her the Commission needs to have a final wetland delineation done on the property, apply for an after the fact Standard Dredge and Fill permit for the existing culvert crossing and put a conservation easement on the property. He told her that the Conservation Commission isn't against spending the money but thought there may be a better way to spend it, whether it was for wildlife plantings or by rebuilding some of the trails instead of mapping the wetlands. He doesn't know what the benefit would be to do this. He told her that he would submit the wetlands permit and talk to the members about doing the easement. After much discussion the members agreed that a conservation easement is a good idea and they should be working on that portion of the administrative order. It puts a layer of protection on the property.

**MOTION:** On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by S. Rolfe, the members voted to have R. Ball

contact Five Rivers Conservation Trust about putting an easement on the Tioga River Wildlife Conservation Area. (5-0)

### **REVIEW 2007 ACTION PLAN:**

#### **Town Forest**

R. Ball showed the members a copy of a trail map that could be used. He said he will try printing some on a laser printer with more durable paper. G. Wells-Kay suggested they be laminated and there could be a note asking people to return them to the kiosk when they were done with them. D. Naiva thought they should name the trails so they can be put on the copies. The members decided that the main trail going down from the kiosk will be the Kurtis Bartlett Trail. They will use colors to name the other ones.

Some of the members will be going out to take some measurements so they can start working on the trail to get it to be handicapped accessible. K. Knowlton said they should adhere to the Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation & Trails put out by the USDA.

R. Ball said that Tioga Estates did not want to block their access point with boulders so he had some signs made to keep people on the trail. D. Naiva suggested they put these signs up when they go out to take the measurements.

#### **Stewardship Plans**

The members looked over the list of the Belmont Open/Conservation Lots. It was noted that the Commission presently have 4 of the pieces. The Stonington Open Space area and the Mountain Lake Open Space are on hold. D. Naiva suggested that the members concentrate on the properties they have now. G. Wells-Kay thought it would be a good idea if the members went out on the properties at least once a year to check them out. R. Ball said they should consider looking at the private ones also. K. Knowlton said that as far as placing these properties in easements/trusts the Tioga River Wildlife Conservation area will be the first that they do.

#### **Community Education/Communication**

S. Rolfe said he would contact Matt Tarr about doing a presentation on a wildlife action plan. Mr. Tarr is a Wildlife Specialist with UNH Cooperative Extension. K. Knowlton suggested they ask Andy Fast who is the Belknap County Forester to also do a presentation the same evening. It would be an opportunity for the members to invite the town residents. The members are looking at either doing it on September 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>.

The members have decided to wait and do the next newsletter in the fall.

#### **Jeff Marden Scholarship Fund**

G. Wells-Kay told the members that 2 students received scholarships this year, Eric Trendell and Brett Donovan. There is a balance of \$700 in the account.

**Open Space Plan and Master Plan**

D. Naiva said that she has not updated the open space plan yet. They would like to incorporate the NRI as part of the master plan. R. Ball told them that they have to ask the Planning Board to set up a revision to do this.

**REVIEW GOALS FOR 2007:**

The members felt they did complete a number of their goals for 2007. Most of these goals will continue to be ongoing. They have a better understanding of the Conservation Commission budget, had a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board. They felt they educated the community when they informed them about the aquifer protection ordinance. G. Wells-Kay had a meeting with the school to try to get youth involvement. D. Naiva has attended Smart Growth programs. One of their goals was to develop a Tioga contiguous greenbelt protection plan. They talked about developing a BMP for this and send it to residents who live near the Tioga River.

**GOALS FOR 2008:**

The members found that a lot of their goals that were set for 2007 will be ongoing into 2008. K. Knowlton told the members for their next meeting he would like them to come up with goals that they would like to see for 2008. They will prioritize them and set a limit. They will continue with the town forest and Tioga River property.

**STAFF REPORT:****BUDGET:**

R. Ball told the members that they presently have \$7,250 in their Professional Services line. The balance will be \$5,500 after they pay the remainder of the appraisal fee. Their Project line has a balance of \$6,042.

**STATE STORMWATER GUIDE:**

R. Ball told the members that he has been asked to review Volume 1 of the State's Stormwater Guide.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

---

Denise Rollins

