

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Corner Meeting House

Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present: K. Knowlton, S. Rolfe, G. Wells-Kay and D. Naiva.
Members Absent: N. Wederski, W. Peterson and J. Pike.
Alternates Present: M. McLetchie.
Alternates Absent: M. Lewandoski.
Staff: R. Ball and E. Murphy

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

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by D. Naiva, it was voted to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2008 meeting as written. (4-0-1) M. McLetchie abstained.

TIOGA RIVER WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION AREA:

The Conservation Commission received a report on Tioga River Wildlife and Conservation area. DES has reviewed the recommendations and because Stoney Ridge recommends no further action be taken by the Town it will be sent on for further review. R. Ball explained that because of the extra review they will need to add \$100 or \$200 more for the project to cover the cost to have Stoney Ridge continue working with DES. K. Knowlton wanted to know the time frame for fixing the culvert. R. Ball stated that he will be getting the check tomorrow and sending in the completed application.

M. McLetchie wanted to know what the problem is. R. Ball explained that the culvert is too high and that can be corrected with a standard dredge and fill permit. K. Knowlton stated that the State wants about two acres brought back to the natural depth by removing between 6" and 12" of soils taken out. The wetland scientist have looked at it and felt it has been taken over naturally and nothing needs to be done. M. McLetchie stated that there were small trees there a few years ago. G. Wells-Kay wanted to know if there are any purple loosestrife out there? R. Ball stated that he didn't see any invasive plants on site.

MOTION: D. Naiva moved to increase the funds for Stoney Ridge Environmental by \$300 for additional time needed to work with DES. The motion was seconded by S. Rolfe and carried (5-0).

R. Ball reminded the members of the site walk scheduled for Saturday October 18th at 9 am.

TOWN FOREST:

R. Ball explained that he has started working on the grant from NH Trails Bureau and wanted to know how the Commission wanted to proceed. D. Naiva stated that they had talked about splitting up the assignments. R. Ball stated that they still need to figure out how much it will cost. K. Knowlton stated that he has talked to Mr. Tim Hayes who has some small equipment that he will supply to help with the trails. R. Ball stated that they can get credit for the volunteers at a rate of \$9.77 an hour for unskilled labor. D. Naiva stated that she has talked to Gunstock Mountain and the Belknap Conservation Commission who were very helpful. They recommended following the guide.

G. Wells-Kay suggested having someone bid on the job. Then plug those figures in the grant. It would be a free estimate. They will just have to figure out who does that type of work. K. Knowlton stated that he has talked to Mr. Hayes about the equipment and S. Rolfe has estimated the amount of material they will need. S. Rolfe stated that he will contact Tilton Sand and Gravel to get an estimate on the cost of the material. There was discussion on if they could get the gravel material donated.

M. McLetchie stated that part of the area is wetland and putting material in that area could be a problem because it is so soft. R. Ball stated that they will get a wetlands permit for that area. K. Knowlton stated that paths are not wide and they will use small, less invasive equipment. The Commission discussed the best time of year to do the work and are considering doing it in August. K. Knowlton stated that they have to figure out the cost of materials and then go from there. M. McLetchie wanted to know if they are going to use gravel or hard pack. K. Knowlton stated that they will use rip-raf and medium gravel to get a good base. He will provide photos of the site.

M. McLetchie wanted to know about the beaver dams. K. Knowlton stated that they have talked about having beaver boxes and lining the wash outs with rip-raf but they need to get the design first. D. Naiva stated that she has talked to a neighbor and they are concern about the road washing out. R. Ball stated that if they break up the dams they could washout the Tioga View driveway again. M. McLetchie wanted to know how many beaver boxes they are considering. K. Knowlton stated four boxes.

D. Naiva wanted to know if the kiosk will be ready by spring. The Commission discussed having the rules and regulation in the kiosk as well as a tribute to Jeff Marden.

M. McLetchie wanted to know if they will be using the trails in the meadow. It was the consensus of the Commission to leave the meadow as it is as they have enough trails to maintain and concentrate on

STAFF REPORT:

HANDOUTS:

The Commission received the registration forms for the Watershed Conference on Saturday November 15th. They also received the NH Community Forestry Advisory Council bulletin.

BUDGET:

R. Ball stated that this month they used \$200 to submit the Dredge and Fill application to the State. K. Knowlton stated that the Commission will not be requesting anything be put on the CIP this year.

IMPLEMENTING WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN:

R. Ball showed the Commission a draft poster that will be used to promote the Nov 5th Forestry Management/ Implementing Wildlife Action Plan meeting. He will be sending the poster and invitations to the Town's Board and Conservation Commissions in abutting towns. The Board discussed sending invitations to property owners that have lots larger than 50 acres. If that list is too extensive then they will be sent to property owners with parcels larger than 75 acres. R. Ball stated that he will also distribute the posters throughout the town.

The Commission reviewed the poster and made a few changes. R. Ball will send them a copy of the revised poster before they are distributed.

CONSERVATION LAND EXPENDITURES:

R. Ball explained that RSA chapter 36-A will be amended to allow Conservation Commissions to make donations to qualifying land trust for transaction costs or the purchase of conservation land in which the municipality will hold no interest. The donation of such funds must be authorized by a legislative vote. Funds can only be given to "qualified organizations" under 170 (h) (3) of the IRS code. A Conservation Commission must hold a public hearing before making such expenditure. A Conservation Commission may not purchase property outside the boundaries of the municipality unless specifically authorized by vote of the legislative body. The effective date of this amendment is January 1, 2009.

OTHER BUSINESS:**ANNUAL NEWS LETTER:**

The annual news letter will be done in the March and will include information on the Water Source Protection grant and the June meeting about the Shoreland Protection Act.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION UNDER RSA 91-A:3. II (d):

K. Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 7:52. Those agreed were G. Wells-Kay, D. Naiva, K. Knowlton, M. McLetchie and S. Rolfe.

The Commission came out of non-public session at 8:32.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by M. McLetchie, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,
