

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, September 3, 2008  
Corner Meeting House  
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2008 meeting as written. (5-0)

**TOWN FOREST – ANDY FAST, BELKNAP COUNTY FORESTER:**

Andy Fast was present to talk to the members about the town forest. He said he was in a position to lend support and was looking for ways to see how he could do that. He had previously met with Chairman Knowlton and R. Ball at the town forest where he gave them some information on possible grants that would help them develop the universal accessible trail. Along with the NH Bureau of Trails grant he told the members that there is a grant put out by the National Park Service and one by the Hiking Society. The National Park Service grant is a more technical assistance grant where someone comes out and helps with the labor portion of the work. The Hiking Society grant is more for materials and funds for the trail improvements. Mr. Fast told the members that they could possibly contact Peter Jensen who is a trail planner/designer and builder from Massachusetts for ideas. He said they should also look for any community support. He suggested they may want to document the whole process and develop some materials that other groups could use when doing the same type of trail.

Chairman Knowlton said that by making the trail handicapped accessible it would also make it more accessible for the elderly. The Commission members would like to see more members of the community visiting the town forest. It's been in existence for awhile but it is not well known.

G. Wells-Kay is concerned with getting schools interested in using the town forest. She asked if Mr. Fast would be willing to do a tour of the town forest with a middle school science class. He said he would and with his new position he is trying to let people know he's a resource and would like to work with students. He would like to see the Project Learning Tree program a part of the local schools curriculum.

**TIOGA RIVER WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA:**

R. Ball told the members that he received the new administrative order from DES and they wanted the town to complete the construction by September 15<sup>th</sup>. After talking to K. Knowlton, R. Ball decided to ask Stoney Ridge Environmental to take a look at the property and to make recommendations. Stoney Ridge proposed a contract where they would detail what they feel should be done to the property and talk to DES. They couldn't understand why DES was making them scrape it down and plant New England mix. Cindy Balcius of Stoney Ridge said that within the last year or two DES has been making a concerted effort to close their files on outstanding violations. S. Rolfe said that it did make sense to have a third party look at it and possibly they could come up with a logical approach that could be less expensive.

**MOTION:** On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to expend \$975 to contract Stoney Ridge Environmental to assist in the DES administrative order. (5-0)

**STAFF REPORT:**

**INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION:**

On Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> Andy Fast will be giving a presentation about timber harvesting and forest management to the members and the general public. There will also be someone from the NH Fish & Game to discuss the Wildlife Action Plan.

**WETLANDS INVENTORY:**

R. Ball told the members that Stoney Ridge Environmental should have a report to them by mid-September for the wetlands inventory.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**GRANTS:**

The members discussed how to proceed applying for the grants. It was decided to apply for the grant put out by the NH Bureau of Trails. D. Naiva said that she would start it and do a rough draft. K. Knowlton has the pictures that can be used. S. Rolfe can figure out the materials needed. Then they can compile all the information together.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:**

Chairman Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 8:00 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II.(d). Those agreed were D. Naiva, G. Wells-Kay, S. Rolfe, N. Wederski.

The members agreed to come out of non-public session at 8:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise Rollins

