



TOWN OF BELMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF: Conservation Commission

Telephone: 267-8300

Wednesday, October 7, 2009
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present:	Ken Knowlton, Scott Rolfe, Denise Naiva, Keith Bennett, David Morse(7:10)
Members Absent:	Ward Peterson(u), Mark Lewandoski(u), G. Wells-Kay(e)
Alternates Present:	Carol Fairfield
Alternates Absent:	Magnus McLetchie(u)
Staff:	Rick Ball, Denise Rollins

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He appointed C. Fairfield as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by S. Rolfe, seconded by K. Bennett, the members voted to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2009 meeting as written. (5-0)

NEW MEMBER:

P. J. O'Brien was present at the meeting. He is interested in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission. He has a degree in wildlife biology and would like to help out. He is an avid fisherman and loves the outdoors. D. Naiva asked him if he would be able to commit himself and become an active member. He said he can dedicate whatever time they need from him. K. Knowlton told him he needed to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking to be appointed to the alternate position.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

Alvin Nix wanted to update the members on his project. He said the bird houses and duck boxes project has been approved by the council. He will be having a spaghetti dinner on October 24th to raise money to pay for the supplies to build them.

MEMBER RESIGNATION:

Chairman Knowlton informed the members that G. Wells-Kay has decided to resign her position on the Commission due to family commitments. She said she doesn't have the time she would like to give to the Commission. K. Knowlton said she was an active and motivated member and he is sorry that she can't stay on. She put the scholarship together and put out the Commission's newsletters. He suggested to her that she become an alternate member instead but she said she's not able to do that either. She said she will attend next month's meeting.

D. Naiva said that C. Fairfield has an active member and would like to see her move up to the full member position that G. Wells-Kay has held. K. Knowlton told C. Fairfield to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting to be appointed to the full member position.

TIOGA RIVER WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION AREA:

R. Ball told the members that he sent a copy of the Conservation Easement Deed to the town attorney. The attorney said the members should avoid having the arbitration clause in it. R. Ball sent this information to Sarah Pillsbury and Ken Stern of 5 Rivers Conservation Trust. Mr. Stern said that they have done a number of easements with arbitration clauses in them and would like to keep it in. Ms. Pillsbury said that the members should find out first whether the Board of Selectmen are even going to consider the conservation deed before they get their attorneys involved. K. Knowlton said that the members should go before the Board of Selectmen and present it to them. R. Ball will have it put on the agenda for their next meeting on October 19th. K. Knowlton encouraged all the members to attend it.

JEFF MARDEN TOWN FOREST:

K. Knowlton said that the work has been done for the universally accessible trail entrance portion. He and S. Rolfe and Tim Hayes along with Tim's son worked 5-6 days on it. D. Naiva suggested that the Commission should recognize Mr. Hayes and his son for all the work they did. K. Knowlton said they should get a commendation for their volunteer work from the town. The members discussed having a newspaper article done and have Mr. Hayes and his son in it. R. Ball suggested having a representative from Pikes also because of their donation of materials. The members decided to wait and do this in the spring when the rest of the work will be completed. Chairman Knowlton did sign a letter to Pikes thanking them for their donation.

The members discussed whether they should replace the damaged culvert and restore it to how it was before or instead put in a bridge. R. Ball received a price of \$1,600 to \$1,800 from the Huot Technical Center for a bridge with a 20 foot span. The members discussed how they could spend the money they received from the WHIP grant. It's to be used for wildlife habitat improvement and was allocated to be used in the town forest. S. Rolfe thought they should restore it to the way it was since it would take more money and they can use the grant money to do it. Replacing the damaged culvert would qualify. They could figure out how much that would cost and they could submit the plan they already have to the State. K. Knowlton also suggested that they could plant some fruit trees in the field which would benefit the wildlife.

ANDREW SANBORN FARM:

K. Bennett told the members that he mowed the field. He said it took him 8 to 9 hours to do it.

He took before and after pictures and will e-mail them to the members.

STAFF REPORT:

PASSIVE VS. ACTIVE RECREATION:

R. Ball asked the members if they had any changes they would like to make to the passive and active document. They felt it was fine the way it was written.

GIS SEMINAR:

R. Ball said that he had attended a GIS seminar. He showed the members a map of the invasive species in Meredith that were mapped using GIS. He thought it could be an Eagle Scout project to have it done in Belmont.

BIKE TRAIL:

R. Ball said the town has approached the State to put the bike path on the old bypass lots, to get an easement for them. He said this would take 4,000 feet of fence out of the plan and would be able to avoid an area where they would have to make huge cuts. It would be much nicer to have the path go through the woods.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Knowlton moved to enter non-public session at 8:20 p.m in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II(d). Those agreed were S. Rolfe, D. Naiva, K. Bennett, C. Fairfield and D. Morse.

The members agreed to come out of non-public session at 9:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by D. Morse, seconded by S. Rolfe, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. (6-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins