

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, January 4, 2006
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present: Chairman K. Knowlton, M. Lewandoski(7:20), N. Wederski,
B. Watterson, G. Wells-Kay
Members Absent: W. Peterson(u), D. Naiva(e)
Alternates Present: S. Rolfe, M. McLetchie
Staff: R. Ball, C. Daigle, D. Rollins

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. He appointed S. Rolfe and M. McLetchie as voting members for tonight's meeting.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, it was voted to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2005 meeting as written. (7-0)

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by N. Wederski, it was voted to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2005 meeting as written. (7-0)

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:

Matt Pickowicz was present to meet the members. He received the Belmont Conservation Commission Scholarship last year and is attending Unity College in Maine which is an environmental college.

TAX MAP 234 LOT 4:

Mr. Phil Harker told the members that he is interested in selling his property to the town. He said there are 168 acres in which approximately 110 acres is jurisdictional wetlands. He has owned it since 2001 and it has been delineated twice. The property is located on the aquifer and borders both Tilton and Northfield. He originally was going to keep the front 4 acres to sell on the commercial market but is now willing to sell the entire lot to the town for \$225,000. G. Wells-Kay asked him about the ongoing wetland mitigation with DES. He said that when he first bought the property he had it logged. He filed the

paperwork to cross the wetlands. He then had the stumps pushed and it was determined that some of the stumps ended up in the wetlands. DES eventually issued an administrative order. He has to have the stumps removed and he also has to remove a culvert crossing. It is two inches too high and is impeding the flow of water so he was directed to pull it out. He also needs to address three other areas where the stumps once resided. They need to be reduced three inches. A great majority has been satisfactorily resolved. He said the work could be done in two days. S. Rolfe asked him if it was a fill situation. He said that yes. It's the underlying premise. K. Knowlton thanked Mr. Harker for giving them the chance to look into it and said that the members will need to discuss it. They are very interested in pursuing it since they have been trying to acquire properties along the Tioga watershed.

The members looked at the criteria for land acquisition which were listed on the Land Acquisition Plan. The members agreed that the property has the first criteria which states that the land has outstanding natural resource conservation opportunity. Also the land has significant public education or recreation opportunities. They also agreed that the land has important historical or archaeological significance since it abuts the railroad corridor and is near the Winnepesaukee River. The land also has frontage on a significant wetland, stream, or water body. The next criteria states that the land provides access to public land or public waters which the members agreed it does. The members weren't sure of the next criteria that the land has habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive wildlife species. S. Rolfe took pictures of the property and saw evidence of wildlife. M. McLetchie said that it is important to preserve any wildlife habitat. Also they agreed that the land has, contains, or is part of a scenic vista from a well-traveled road. The two criteria that they don't think this property has are that it is not on a major trail corridor or contains rare, unique or critical habitat, such as peat lands or pine barrens. K. Knowlton felt that this property is very high on their acquisition list. The members agreed that they should move forward on it. M. Lewandoski said they need to know what needs to be restored and they need to have someone go out and give them an idea as to how much it will cost to restore it. R. Ball said that he will contact DES. He will also contact the Tilton Northfield Conservation Commission to see what interest they have since two thirds of the land is in the wellhead protection area.

MOTION: On a motion by M. Lewanski, seconded by N. Wederski, the members voted to continue the land acquisition process for this property. (7-0)

The members decided to meet again in two weeks on Wednesday, January 18.

MOUNTAIN LAKE VILLAGE:

R. Ball has spoken with Peter Howard of the Mountain Lake subdivision. They sent in their Dredge and Fill application for their proposed rock roadway. They received back a list of deficiencies. As part of their plan they will have to do some mitigation. There are 5 acres in Belmont. The developer's engineer told Mr. Howard that the state wants the town to hold the mitigation conservation easement on it. S. Rolfe said that it's usually the developer's job to find an easement holder. R. Ball wanted the members to be aware of this.

WATERSHED TO WILDLIFE PROPOSAL:

Since K. Knowlton missed their presentation he was concerned as to whether they could get all the necessary field work done in five days as they quoted in their proposal. G. Wells-Kay thought they did an excellent job compared to others she had seen and she thought their price was reasonable. She suggested

they have them do the Natural Resource Inventory and also a stewardship plan for the town forest. R. Ball thought they should do the NRI first and see if they are satisfied with that. S. Rolfe said that if they hired a licensed forester to do the stewardship plan it could be less expensive. K. Knowlton said that he will contact the Northfield Conservation Commission since they recently had Watershed to Wildlife do their Natural Resource Inventory.

SUBCOMITTEES:

The members decided since there are presently nine members that three subcommittees would be sufficient. G. Wells-Kay, S. Rolfe and D. Naiva will be on the Education Committee. M. Lewandoski, M. McLetchie, N. Wederski and W. Peterson will be on the Field Committee. D. Naiva, S. Rolfe, B. Watterson and K. Knowlton will be on the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Committee. The committees will meet once a month and report back to the full Conservation Commission at their monthly meeting.

STAFF REPORT:

TERRA FIRMA SUBDIVISION:

R. Ball told the members that the owners of the Terra Firma Subdivision which is located off Brown Hill Road and Upper Parish Settlement Drive has met with the Planning Board to propose reducing the impact of their project. Their latest proposal will have a cul de sac and not a through road to Province Road. The significant wetlands crossing near Route 107 that was previously proposed will not happen if the Planning Board approves the new configuration.

OTHER BUSINESS:

BUDGET:

K. Knowlton reported that the Budget Committee agreed with the Board of Selectmen to add \$8,000 to the Conservation budget for professional services.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

