

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, January 5, 2005
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Members Present: Chairman K. Knowlton, D. Naiva, M. Lewandoski,
Members Absent: N. Wederski(u), J. Peverly(e), W. Peterson(e)
Alternates Present: G. Wells-Kay, M. McLetchie
Staff: R. Ball, D. Rollins
Others: Jeff Marden, Selectman Brian Watterson

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

MOTION: On a motion by M. Lewandoski, seconded by M. McLetchie it was voted to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2004 meeting as written. (5-0)

MOTION: On a motion by M. McLetchie, seconded by D. Naiva it was voted to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2004 meeting as written. (5-0)

ORDINANCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

R. Ball told the members that on Monday, January 3 the Planning Board held a public hearing about the changes to the Zoning Ordinance to create an Open Space Residential Development Overlay District and the changes to the Wetlands Ordinance to regulate vegetative buffers within 50 feet of water bodies and prime wetlands and add a 15 foot buffer to intermittent streams. He said there were concerns about the buffers to intermittent streams and how it would affect timber harvesting. He said that part will be changed to accept forestry. The ordinance is trying to keep people from clearing the lot right up to the stream. The members were concerned about landowners going ahead and clearing their land. R. Ball said that when building permits are processed is when landowners can be told about the rules and regulations. The landowner is allowed to cut up to 20 cords of wood for personal use. He would need an intent to cut permit if he was going to cut more than that. R. Ball then showed the members a map from USGS of perennial and intermittent streams in Belmont.

R. Ball showed the members the Open Space Overlay map which consists of three defined areas. Lots within these areas with 20 or more acres to be subdivided into 3 or more lots for residential housing units would

be required to do an open space subdivision. The areas were picked from the co-occurrence maps done by the NH Fish & Game. These areas are along South Road down to Stone Road to the Northfield border and in the eastern part of town along Route 140 to the Gilford border and along Hurricane Road to Dutile Road and then to Route 106.

STAFF REPORT:

FEBRUARY MEETING:

R. Ball told the members that Ms. Kate Hartnett of the Jordan Institute and Ms. Carol Foss of NH Audubon will be talking to them at the February meeting about the grant they received to review towns ordinances.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION FUNDS:

According to R. Ball the remaining operating budget amount of \$3,741.42 will be added to the Commissions account along with \$128,010.00 from the 2004 land use change tax..

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROGRAM:

Chairman Knowlton and R. Ball will be setting up a meeting with Margaret Watson. When she had met with the Commission before she mentioned that the town should put conservation easements on the property they own such as the Rhodora Bog. K. Knowlton said he would like to get suggestions from her as to how to proceed with this.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NEW MEMBER:

Chairman Knowlton introduced Shari Colby who would like to become an alternate member. She has submitted a letter to the Selectmen requesting she be appointed to the Commission.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

G. Wells-Kay updated the members on setting up the scholarship. She has spoken with Joanne Cormier of the Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation about administering it for the Commission. They will be getting back to her about it.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by M. McLetchie, seconded by D. Naiva, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

