

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, April 6, 2005
Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

The chairman opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. He appointed G. Wells-Kay as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

D. Naiva requested the minutes of March 2, 2005 be amended. In those minutes she was quoted as saying the following "she thought as a Commission they should let the town see how they stand and let the townspeople know that they support something or not. Her major goal was to get the word out even though a vote was never taken as to whether the Conservation Commission was in favor of the open space ordinance." She claims that she did not make these statements and would like to have the minutes amended.

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by G. Wells-Kay it was voted to approve the amended minutes of the March 2, 2005 meeting. (4-0) W. Peterson and J. Peverly abstained.

MOTION: On a motion by W. Peterson, seconded by G. Wells-Kay it was voted to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2005 meeting as written. (6-0)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The members discussed whether they should hold elections at this meeting or wait until next month since four of the members were not present. There was a question as to whether an alternate can be elected as an officer or if they can vote for them. It was decided to postpone the elections until their next meeting on May 4.

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by W. Peterson it was voted to postpone the election of officers until the May 4, 2005 meeting. (6-0)

2005 COMMISSION PROJECTS –A discussion of the goals, objectives and direction of the Conservation Commission:

Chairman Knowlton said that he wanted to hear what ideas the members had as to what direction they wanted the Commission to go. They haven't talked since the vote. D. Naiva began the discussion by stating that they shouldn't change direction at all. Through work with the Planning Board, UNH, and the Jordan Institute they gathered a lot of information to put out there for the townspeople. She doesn't feel that it was articulated adequately to them. She said she would like to see the Commission continue to work closely with the Planning Board. People were afraid that they were anti-growth but the Conservation Commission has the future of the town in it's best interest. B. Watterson said that part of the problem was that there were a lot of proposals at once. It was completely anti-growth and combined they were a tremendous change. They were proposing 4 or 5 different things. They need to take them one at a time and compromise a little bit more. G. Wells-Kay feels that their major goal is to educate people. She would also like to see more joint meetings with the other boards, possibly quarterly. K. Knowlton said that people need to realize that they are not going to steal their land. The Commission is not anti-growth as they are being portrayed. They believe in controlled growth. Mr. Harris said that they took on too many issues and they have to go back to the people and educate them. They need to bring new ideas in with existing ideas.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT APPRAISAL:

R. Ball said that he received a quote of \$2800.00 from Armstrong Consulting, LLC to do a preliminary appraisal on the 2 properties that the Conservation Commission may be interested in purchasing.

MOTION: D. Naiva made a motion that the Conservation Commission spend \$2800.00 for an appraisal to be done on the two pieces of property. B. Watterson seconded it and it was approved by all. (6-0)

STAFF REPORT:

NHACC MEMBERSHIP DUES:

R. Ball received the invoice for the 2005 membership dues for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and asked the members if they wanted to renew it. The cost is \$250.00.

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by J. Peverly the members voted to pay the \$250.00 and renew their membership to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. (6-0)

TOWN FOREST:

R. Ball said that the culvert has washed out again. He said that Mike Lynch who designed it will come out and look at it. Hopefully he can offer suggestions as to how to stabilize it. R. Ball said there was no evidence of it damming. It washed out last weekend with the heavy rains that we had.

OTHER BUSINESS:

BELKNAP COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS:

The Conservation Commission received a letter from Nikki Wheeler on behalf of the Belknap County 4-H Fairgrounds Association asking the Commission to consider an annual contribution. G. Wells-Kay asked if Ms. Wheeler could possibly come and talk to the members about this. She questioned if there are any other towns in Belknap County that are donating.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by J. Peverly, seconded by B. Watterson, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. (6-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

