

## Conservation Commission

Wednesday, May 4, 2005  
Corner Meeting House  
Belmont, New Hampshire

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

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

### **BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by J. Peverly, seconded by N. Wederski it was voted to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2005 meeting as written. (7-0)

### **BELKNAP COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS:**

Ms. Wheeler was present to give background on the letter that she had sent to the Conservation Commission. In the letter she asked that the Commission consider giving an annual contribution of \$5,000 to \$8,000 to the Belknap County 4-H Fairgrounds Association. She is a member of the Rotary Club and they have invested \$20,000 for a bathroom/shower facility to be built on the fairgrounds. She said the association raises money with a fair and auction which is used to maintain the fairgrounds but they don't always have enough. She thought that since the Conservation Commission wants to preserve property they may consider helping the association out. K. Knowlton said that their goal is to purchase developmental rights and the 4-H property is not in jeopardy of being developed. According to Ms. Wheeler if something happens to the association the property goes to the town. W. Peterson said he would like to see a copy of the deed for this property. R. Ball said he will research it. The question came up as to whether the conservation funds could be donated. W. Peterson said that when the fund was created it was intended to purchase and maintain property. K. Knowlton suggested getting a line item in the town budget. B. Watterson agreed that would be the way to go. He said he would not be comfortable donating to private entities. K. Knowlton thanked Ms. Wheeler for coming and said he would be discussing this further with the members.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

All the members were in favor of K. Knowlton remaining as Chairman of the Conservation Commission after he was nominated by G. Wells-Kay.

For Vice Chairman N. Wederski nominated M. Lewandoski which was seconded by B. Watterson. D. Naiva nominated W. Peterson, seconded by J. Peverly. G. Wells-Kay nominated D. Naiva, seconded by M. Lewandoski. Because of all these nominations R. Ball had the members write their votes on a slip of paper which he then read aloud. W. Peterson received the most votes with five. D. Naiva and M. Lewandoski each received one.

**OTHER BUSINESS:****MILE HILL ROAD:**

The members discussed the dumping that occurs on Mile Hill Road past the 4-H Fairgrounds. K. Knowlton asked if there was any way to be able to close the road or put up a gate. R. Ball said that a gate cannot be put up on a town maintained road. He said that it is considered a road to summer cottages and is only opened in the summer. It also needs to be opened for emergency vehicle access. W. Peterson suggested that they buy a digital camera and hang it in a tree so possibly those who are doing the dumping can be caught.

**TOWN FOREST:**

M. Lewandoski would like to see the Commission complete the work at the town forest before they begin another project. The trails need to be cut out. The rules and regulations need to be established. K. Knowlton said they need to decide if they are going to have gates and bars, garbage cans, or if they will allow motorized vehicles. M. Lewandoski said that other towns have town forests and perhaps they can use their ideas. R. Ball said that he can send the members copies of Gilmanton's town forest rules and regulations. M. McLetchie suggested forming a subcommittee.

**MOTION:** On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by W. Peterson, the members voted to form a subcommittee of 2-3 members to achieve the goals of the town forest. (7-0)

It was decided that M. Lewandoski, W. Peterson and M. McLetchie would be on the town forest subcommittee.

**SCHOLARSHIP:**

G. Wells-Kay said that they have only raised \$290 for the scholarship. She asked the members if they should award \$250 this year and put the rest towards next year. The members agreed to do this if they don't raise any more before the deadline at the end of May.

**STAFF REPORT:**

**WETLANDS APPLICATION-LINDA DRIVE:**

R. Ball told the members that the Public Works Department was putting in a cross-culvert to connect two wetlands separated by Linda Drive. An abutter complained and the state became involved. He has a minimum impact application for K. Knowlton to sign. He said the wetland impact will be less than 100 square feet.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT APPRAISAL:**

R. Ball met with the appraiser. He has been out on both sites and is working on the appraisal.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** On a motion by M. Lewandoski, seconded by N. Wederski, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise Rollins

