

Conservation Commission

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Corner Meeting House

Belmont, New Hampshire

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

Vice Chairman W. Peterson opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

WATERSHED TO WILDLIFE, INC.:

Elise Lawson and John Severance of Watershed to Wildlife, Inc. were present to describe the services they could offer to aid the Conservation Commission in developing a natural resource inventory. They passed around to the members samples of reports of some of the projects they have done. They then did a slideshow presentation. They went over the steps they take to do a natural resource inventory. First they look at grant potential for funding a natural resource inventory. Then they collect field inventory data and digitize and map field data. With that they produce maps and prepare a final report. They also offer a training session for town officials in the use of natural resource inventory data if needed. Finally they do a public presentation. The tools they use to get the data are aerial photographs, topographic maps, a global positioning system and a digital camera. They use arc view and autocad map and standard windows xp software. They said that their most important tool is local knowledge. Landowner permission is very important to them and they respect their rights. They also do conservation planning in which they could develop conservation goals for the town. One of their projects they talked about is the stewardship management plan for Randolph Community Forest which is a town-owned working forest with over 10,000 acres. Another was the vernal pool inventory along the Connecticut River from Pittsburgh to Haverhill. Some of the towns that they have done natural resource inventories are Northfield, Bethelhem and Whitefield. They are both certified wetland scientists and Watershed to Wildlife has been incorporated for over 5 years. They said that they charge between seven thousand and ten thousand dollars depending on the goals of the Commission and how far they want them to go. They can draw up a proposal with different options in it. They said they would take into account what the town already has for information and maps. They would wait until late spring to begin so they could see all the vegetation.

MOTION: On a motion by N. Wederski, seconded by D. Naiva, the members voted to have Watershed to Wildlife, Inc. draw up a proposal to do a natural resource inventory for the Town of Belmont. (5-0)

Vice Chairman Peterson then appointed G. Wells-Kay and M. McLetchie as voting members for tonight's meeting.

CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION POLICY:

D. Naiva volunteered to come up with a template for the Conservation Land Acquisition Policy and have it ready for next week's meeting. She will e-mail it to the members so it can be added on.

BOARD'S ACTION-MINUTES:

N. Wederski requested the minutes of October 19, 2005 be amended to show that she was excused since she did call to say that she would not be in attendance.

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by M. Lewandoski, it was voted to approve the amended minutes of the October 19, 2005 meeting.(7-0)

STAFF REPORT:

R. Ball said that he has received notification from DES about a forestry crossing on Lake View Golf Course and two shoreland waivers which didn't have enough information. They are on Sunrise Shores and Breck Shore Road. Also Amily Management has turned in their site specific application for their subdivision on Grimstone Drive and DES will be reviewing it. He said that DES has received a complaint about some work done in Mallards Landing. He will go out and view the property. DES has also reviewed the wetlands application for the Mountain Lake Village subdivision on Mile Hill Road. There were a number of omissions from their application.

R. Ball said that Dennis Prescott of Amily Management wanted to know if the Commission is interested in the open space in his subdivision and if so he would like them to submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen advising them to accept it. The members agreed since there is public access to the open space it would be beneficial for the town to own it.

MOTION: On a motion by G. Wells-Kay, seconded by M. Lewandoski, the members voted that a letter be sent to the Board of Selectmen from the Conservation Commission recommending that they accept the property in fee and the Commission will become the steward of the property. (7-0)

R. Ball said that BBE Realty has sent them an e-mail since they have not heard from the Commission about their proposal for a dual approach to their open space. The members agreed that it would not be in their best interest since it only gives them police powers but no management. C. Daigle said that according to the e-mail they may be withdrawing the offer. She said that they will need a formal stewardship plan if they decide to leave the ownership/management with the Association.

C. Daigle said that now that the Commission will be accepting open space land they may want to suggest to the Planning Board that the developer contract to do a stewardship plan that the Conservation

Commission can manage under. They would have to do a stewardship plan whether they donate it to the town or have an association. It would have to be done at the Planning Board level. They could consider it as part of their open space subdivision conditions and they would have to do it before they can get their plan signed. It would be a plan that is unique to that piece of property. Some towns require the developer to put money down and the interest can be expended to maintain the property. G. Wells-Kay said that she would research how other towns are doing this.

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by G. Wells-Kay, the members voted to send BBE Realty a letter telling them that the Commission is not interested in their offer of a conservation easement over their open space. (7-0)

OTHER BUSINESS:

JOINT MEETING:

R. Ball reminded the members about the joint meeting of the Planning Board, Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission with NH DES and Tilton and Northfield Conservation Commissions. They will be discussing the reclassification of the Tilton/Northfield wellhead protection area. It is scheduled for Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

There will be another Conservation Commission meeting on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Vice Chairman Peterson moved to enter non-public session at 8:55 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3.II.(d). Those present were W. Peterson, B. Watterson, M. Lewandoski, D. Naiva, N. Wederski, G. Wells-Kay, M. McLetchie, S. Rolfe, R. Ball, C. Daigle and D. Rollins.

The non-public session was closed at 9:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: On a motion by M. Lewandoski, seconded by N. Wederski, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:58 p.m. (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Rollins

