



CONSERVATION COMMISSION TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Belmont Corner Meeting House
Belmont, New Hampshire

Present: Chairman Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Paul Schmidt; Members Laurel Day and Benjamin Crawford; Alternate Member Kenneth Knowlton.
Absent: Members Keith Bennett, Scott Rolfe, and Claude Patten, Ex-Officio; Alternate Member Lynne Lowd.
Staff: Richard Ball and Colleen Akerman.

The chairman established a quorum, named K. Knowlton as a voting member for this meeting, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., and welcomed those in attendance.

Public Hearing – Currier-Sanborn Conservation Area-

D. Naiva opened the public hearing to discuss the withdrawal of up to \$60,000 from the Conservation Fund for the purchase of the Currier-Sanborn Conservation Area from the Sanborn Family Trust. The Town has received grants from LCHIP - \$57,227; Aquatic Resources Mitigation Program - \$42,496; and the State Conservation Committee Moose Plate Grant - \$7,500 to assist with this purchase. Total grants are \$107,223.

R. Ball reports that the Conservation Fund Withdrawal is estimated at \$47,777. This takes into account the \$125,000 property price plus approximately \$14,000 in due diligence and the Five Rivers Conservation Trust Easement of approximately \$16,000 for a total estimated cost of \$155,000. After deducting grants of \$107,223, that leaves a balance of \$47,777 to be withdrawn from the Conservation Fund.

R. Ball explained that the \$60,000 withdrawal may be necessary for the closing as some grant monies may not be fully received by the closing date. The original closing date was scheduled for April 10th but the closing will be delayed.

There was no discussion on this withdrawal.

The chairman opened the public hearing and as there was no public present, closed the public hearing.

The chairman asked if there was any further discussion on this withdrawal. There being none, D. Naiva called for a vote on whether the Commission shall withdraw up to \$60,000 to close on the Currier-Sanborn Conservation Area.

MOTION: On a motion by P. Schmidt, seconded by L. Day, it was voted unanimously to approve the withdrawal of up to \$60,000 to close on the Currier-Sanborn Conservation Area. (5-0)

Board's Action - Minutes

MOTION: On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by P. Schmidt, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 8, 2018, as written. (5-0)

NH Department of Environmental Services Applications

1. Donna/Marcel Matte - 30 Bayview Drive – Map 115-009 - Shoreland application approved to impact 2,408 sf of protected shoreland in order to construct a new house in the same location as existing house, add a porch and new access to the waterfront. Overall improvements will result in a decrease in lot coverage for 553.5 sf.
2. Elizabeth Copp – 12 Island Drive – Map 111-010 - Shoreland permit by notification acceptance to impact 1,070 sf of protected shoreland to replace an existing primary structure in the same footprint.
3. Town of Belmont – Wildlife Boulevard – Map 230-005 – Forestry notification completed.
4. Thomas Grassi – 70 Mallards Landing Road – Map 110-002-000-067 – Shoreland permit by notification acceptance to remove existing structure and change roof on second floor from Gable to Gambrel. This permit by notification is under technical review.

Land Use Boards/Committees Applications

1. Planning Board – 02/26/2018 –
 - a. The subordinate dwelling zoning article passed and a related Site Plan and Subdivision amendment hearing was set for March 26th.
 - b. There was discussion by the Planning Board on a possible 2019 zoning amendment proposal to allow the Planning Board to grant waivers from the Belmont Aquifer and Groundwater Protection Ordinance through a conditional use permit, if any area contained within the Belmont Aquifer and Ground Water Protection District (District) was sufficiently proven to be not within a stratified drift aquifer.

R. Ball explained that the Planning Board needs to decide if they want to keep the hard boundaries of the current Aquifer District or “poke holes”/exempt portions of the District if there is land in the District that is scientifically determined to not be stratified drift aquifer. Land owners would have the option of trying for a variance if the hard boundaries were kept in place.

K. Knowlton thinks there will be a lot of challenges with this.

There was discussion on whether digging down into bedrock could cause contamination downslope in a stratified drift aquifer.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – No February Meeting

3. Application Review Committee – 02/22/18 -
 - a. Belmont Medical Center c/o LRGHealthcare: Review of Site Plan proposal to construct parking

and septic on vacant lot to support expansion of commercial activities on adjacent lot; 8 Corporate Drive, Tax Lots 205-005-003 & 205-005-004, #05-18R. Want to expand from 4 to 9 providers.

Projects

1. **Village Rail Spur Trail – Gates and Fence** – R. Ball stated that it has been a struggle to try to come up with a solution that will keep trail users safe but still allow the Corliss Farm to use fields for cattle. Cattle grates cannot be used if trails are open to horses. Cattle grates can cause a number of issues from kids being stuck in them, cattle getting broken legs and more. The plan is to err on the side of safety of the trail users rather than the convenience of the farm.

R. Ball displayed overhead photos of the property off of South Road for members to review. There is already a gate that is opened in the winter for snowmobilers. After consultation with Mr. Rick Sykes of Superior Fence, R. Ball has created a Request for Proposal (RFP) to put in barbed wire fencing and a series of gates for livestock to access specific pastures and fields. The proposal calls for 4-inch wooden fence posts every 12 ½ feet, with support structures of two 6”x6” posts with cross beams and wire with turnbuckles for tension. When the gates are open for cattle, the trail will be closed off to trail users. The gates will be re-opened for trail users once cattle are moved. R. Ball expects to meet with the farm owners soon. Corliss Farm will not be responsible for any of the costs associated with the fencing and gates. There is a Recreational Trails grant program that will pay for this project.

2. **Jeff Marden Town Forest Red Pine Harvest – Postponed** – R. Ball reported that the harvest had to be postponed due to weather and ground conditions. The harvest may happen this summer, but it may not happen until next winter. The Forestry Permit is good for five years.
3. **Winnisquam Watershed Network** – R. Ball explained that the Commission will have to make a decision on whether or not to contribute to the milfoil removal on Lake Winnisquam. Belmont’s share would be \$2,200, which is approximately what we have been paying for the last few years.
4. **10-15 middle schoolers to plant at ASF – Earth Day is April 22, Sunday** – D. Naiva has connected with Annette Blake at Belmont Middle School to coordinate plantings on a Saturday in May. D. Naiva would like the Commission to do some prep work such as getting materials and soil and flagging where to plant prior to the plant date. She asked if the Fire Department might be willing to assist with a water supply that day. The dedication for Mr. Peter Pierce will also be done at the time of the plantings and K. Bennett is trying to pick a boulder to affix the plaque to. Twenty blueberries, two white oaks, and two wildlife packages of five plants of five species each have been ordered by R. Ball. There will be 70+ items to plant. D. Naiva will keep everyone updated when a date has been selected.

Land Protection Projects

1. **Sanborn Trust Property** – This project is set for an April closing date.
2. **Alosa Property** – R. Ball reports that he examined the deed history from the late to mid-1800’s for this property and it used to be the Daniel Ladd Homestead Farm. The Commission thinks that the Daniel Ladd Farm would be a good name for this property.

Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info

1. **Tioga Ridge Timber Trespass** – No news.
2. **Seamus Bradford – Eagle Scout Project** – Seamus earned his Eagle Scout award by building a

pavilion off the BRATT trail on the Conservation/Rotary property.

3. **Two BHS students to go to Saving Special Places** – D. Naiva has been working with Amy Bourque at Belmont High School looking for students to attend this event. D. Naiva will be attending. R. Ball may attend.

Budget/Expenditures

1. **Currier-Sanborn Trust** - TF Bernier \$5,541 survey and Lamprey Appraisals \$2,900 were paid out of the Professional Services line item. Eversource fully paid the \$10,000 for GZA's baseline documentation, which decreased the Commission's cost for this property.
2. **State of NH** - \$25 – Forestry permit for the Jeff Marden Town Forest Red Pine Harvest.
3. **Andrew Sanborn Farm** - BCCD \$230 – Twenty blueberries and two white oaks; NH State Nursery \$60 – Songbird wildlife planting packages; and Rocky Mountain Plaques \$343.95 – Peter Pierce plaque.

Other

1. **Signs** - R. Ball is searching for someone to make a laser sign like the Bean Dam/Tioga Ridge sign. The Huot Center started to work on this but did not have sufficient ventilation to create the sign. Some of the conservation property signs are also in need of polyurethane to help mitigate rot.
2. **Climate Change Speaker** - Sherry Godlewski from NHDES will be speaking about climate change at the April 4th Conservation Commission meeting. R. Ball has the press release written and ready to go to the papers.
3. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman** –

MOTION: On a motion by L. Day, seconded by K. Knowlton, it was voted unanimously to approve D. Naiva as the Conservation Commission Chairman. (5-0)

MOTION: On a motion by D. Naiva, seconded by K. Knowlton, it was voted unanimously to approve P. Schmidt as the Conservation Commission Vice Chairman. (5-0)

4. **Resignation** - K. Knowlton submitted his resignation from the Conservation Commission. He has served for almost 20 years on the Commission. D. Naiva thanked him for his long service to the commission.

Adjournment

MOTION: On a motion by K. Knowlton, seconded by L. Day, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. (5-0)

Respectfully submitted:

Colleen Akerman
Building and Land Use Clerk