

CONSERVATION COMMISSION TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom
Belmont, New Hampshire

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Ed Stephenson; Pauline Tessier; Jane Jordan (6:18pm); Alternate Member Richard Moreau (not yet sworn in); Student Members Emilie DeFrancesco; William Riley (via Zoom)

Absent: Members Keith Bennett; Susan Irving; Ruth Mooney, Ex-Officio; Alternate Member Georgina Lambert

Staff: Karen Santoro and Dawn Eastman

Others: Donna Hepp, Belknap County Conservation District; Ron Klemarczyk, Forester

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:05 pm and welcomed those in attendance. She said any party experiencing difficulty in accessing the meeting at any point should call 603-267-8300 x101, and the meeting will be recessed until access can be restored for all parties.

Speaker:

Forest Stewardship Plan for the Tioga Conservation Area – Ron Klemarczyk, Forester

R. Klemarczyk had reviewed the Conservation Stewardship Plan that was done in 2018 for the Tioga Marsh and Currier-Sanborn Conservation parcels. He noted two main areas of concern, the first that the parcel was heavily cut prior to the Town obtaining ownership; and second that there is a heavy infestation of glossy buckthorn on the property.

R. Klemarczyk outlined that a forestry management plan starts with an inventory of the property. He explained to the Commission that he uses a grid pattern with sample points. He looks for things such as species of trees, staking, and age level then he creates a map. He would come back to the Commission with his findings to discuss what the Commission's goals are once they have the new inventory. It was noted that invasive species management is a top priority. Other goals that may be explored include recreation potential; and the adjacent railroad right of way.

R. Klemarczyk commented on the statement in the plan "to preserve the natural environment". He commented that most people think that means never touch but invasives are also "natural", they are just not in their place of origin. D. Naiva said that in 2011-2012 with Conservation Core students they had done hand pulling of the glossy buckthorn. R. Klemarczyk stated that the most effective way to control

glossy buckthorn is using herbicide. After it is removed it must be replaced with something. He noted that prescribed fire is sometimes used but it is not a good solution, especially with the larger stalks. Ten years after the hand pulling the glossy buckthorn it is probably 10-15' tall and has substantial stalks. D. Hepp commented that the grant includes invasive species management as well as the development of the stewardship plan. Some of the grant included possibly bringing in a "brontosaurus" mower to help remove the glossy buckthorn.

D. Naiva asked about removal with the brontosaurus followed up with herbicide. She also noted that hunters with ATVs are the primary users of the trails.

R. Klemarczyk said it would take 3-4 days to complete the inventory. He uses a string method. He wanted to make the Commission aware in case the public called asking about string in the conservation area. He uses cotton thread which breaks down on its own. R. Klemarczyk asked about the goals for the property. The Commission stated that one goal is improving the trails to make it more attractive to the public, possibly a simple loop trail to start. J. Jordan commented that when she went on the annual inspection with Rick (Ball) last year, it was mostly bushwhacking to get through.

D. Hepp will work with R. Klemarczyk to get the newspaper involved and increase the public interest in the management area. R. Klemarczyk noted that it appears that there was a bog on the property at one time. A bog would be an area of interest as they have unique ecosystems and features.

Membership

Introductions were made for new Alternate Member Richard Moreau, and the new Student Members Emilie DeFrancesco and William Riley and all other members and Staff. Everyone shared a little information about themselves and why they are a Commission member.

Board's Action – Minutes 05/04/2022

On a motion by J. Jordan, seconded by E. Stephenson, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 4, 2022. (4-0)

The Commission noted a minor change: pg. 7 – Change NHDES to NHDHHS in first and third sentences.

NH Dept. of Environmental Services Applications

- 1. Winnisquam Yacht Club LLC - 18 Sunset Dr. – Map/Lot 104-062-000-000:** Shoreland Permit by Notification: Replacement of the existing tank sump, transition sump, and dispenser sump.
- 2. Sunray Shores Improvement – Between 110 and 114 Sunset Drive – Map/Lot 107-038-000-000:** Statutory Permit by Notification: Replace an existing 12" by 70' galvanized culvert that has rusted with a plastic culvert in-kind.

3. **Kevin Walsh – 106 Sunset Dr. – Map/Lot 107-140-000-000:** Shoreland Permit by Notification: Impact 256 square feet of protected shoreland in order to construct a deck on a nonconforming, primary structure.
4. **Sunray Shores Improvement – Between 110 and 114 Sunset Drive – Map/Lot 107-038-000-000:** Statutory Permit by Notification: Temporarily impact 7520 square feet in order to replenish an existing beach area with no more than 10 cubic yards of sand on frontage along Winnisquam Lake in Belmont.
5. **HWB Physical Therapy, LLC – 29 Gilman Shore Rd - Map/Lot 109-001-000-000:** Wetland Permit by Notification: Impact 497 square feet (impacting 99 linear feet) of shoreline in order to repair a retaining wall and stairs and install a concrete anchoring pad on 110 feet of frontage along Lake Winnisquam in Belmont.

Current Planning Board 5/23/2022 and ARC/ZBA Applications

a. Planning Board

- i. **Paul Zuzgo for Raed Hertel Family Trust - Jamestown Road – Map/ Lot 118-016-000-000.** The Planning Board continued a request for Subdivision Plan approval to subdivide one lot into seven. Continued to June 27, 2022.
- ii. **Route 106 Realty Trust - Laconia Road & 28 Corriveau Way - Map/ Lot 217-114-000-000.** The Planning Board continued a request for Site Plan approval for Contractor's Yard, commercial building (motor vehicle & trailer service, professional offices, light manufacturing, retail stores and service business). Continued to June 27, 2022.
- iii. **46 Horne Road LLC - 46 Horne Road, Map/Lot 218-119-000-000.** The Planning Board approved a subdivision application to subdivide one lot into nine.
- iv. **Mammoth Acquisition Company LLC – 77 Daniel Webster Highway – Map/Lot 201-029-001-000.** The Planning Board held a compliance hearing to discuss the alternative slope stabilization treatment (originally approved 09/28/2020).

b. Current Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) 5/25/2022

- i. **TAP Public House, Inc. - 930 Laconia Road – Map/Lot 122-057-000-000:** The Board approved a request for one year extension (6/24/23) for a Variance to construct a deck closer (5') to the side property line than allowed (15') and a Special Exception of Article 11.A.3.d to construct a deck closer (42.3') to the front property line than allowed (50') but not closer than the existing structure.
- ii. **Donald Quinn (Winnisquam Beach Association) - 11 Dove Terrace – Map/Lot 117-015-000-054:** The Board approved two Variances to add a manufactured unit closer (15.1') to an unrelated structure (porch) than allowed (20'). and to add a concrete slab closer (11.9') to an unrelated structure (shed) than allowed (20').

- iii. **Route 106 Realty Trust - 54 Peggy Drive - Map/Lot 210-017-000-000:** The Board approved a Variance to allow billboards with offsite advertising (pre-existing nonconforming use).

c. ARC

- i. **Tradz LLC - 194 Gilmanton Road, Map/ Lot 241-019-000-000:** The ARC reviewed a request for Site Plan Review to run a Contractor's Yard.
- ii. **Sevita Health - 96 Daniel Webster Highway - Map/Lot 201-009-000-000:** The ARC reviewed an application for Site Plan Review to convert an existing unit in the Belknap Mall to a private adult daycare business.

Projects:

1. Currier-Sanborn/Tioga Marsh Annual Monitoring

K. Santoro is going to schedule the annual site walk at the Currier-Sanborn/Tioga Marsh and asked if any of the members would like to accompany her. She has reached out to Five Rivers Conservation Trust regarding the property to see what their requirements and availability are. To date, she has not received a response. It was noted that the inventory that is going to be done for the stewardship plan may be used for the annual report. Members P. Tessier and J. Jordan asked to accompany K. Santoro when she walks the property.

Complaints/Violations/Concerns/General Info:

Old Home Day – August 13, 2022

The Commission discussed Old Home Day. In prior years they have had one spot, it was decided to have two spots this year so it was not as crowded. In prior years they have sold plants and vegetables, the money raised goes to the scholarship fund. The Commission will also have flyers available regarding the water testing. The members discussed purchasing canopies, two members have canopies they can loan for the day instead of purchasing them.

Water Sampling Workshop 9/14/22

The Commission discussed the budget for helping with the cost of the water testing to the public. It was noted that the test costs \$85, in the past they have paid 50% of the cost. After a discussion, it was decided to limit the number of tests they will pay 50% for to 30 tests.

Village Spur Trail Kiosk Display

Ginger Wells-Kay offered to share her photos of the wildflowers on the Village Spur Trail. She will send photographs for April-May wildflower photos with both common and botanical names. A large sheet with thumbnail photos could then be printed out and put in the kiosk at the trail. G. Kay-Wells sent the photos to the Town Administrator for the June newsletter, K. Santoro will request them from the Town Administrator and get them printed for the kiosk.

Jeff Marden Scholarship

D. Naiva noted that Awards Night is Thursday, June 9th and she will keep the Commission posted on the recipient. She briefly explained who Jeff Marden was and why the Commission awards the scholarship. The award of \$500 is presented to a Belmont High School graduating senior.

NHACC and Belknap Range Coalition membership correspondence

K. Santoro will make sure the membership list is up to date.

Silver Lake Association

P. Tessier updated the Commission on the Silver Lake Association. They visited the Belknap County Commission to check the status on the funds for the dam study, she reported that the Belknap County Commission has not yet allocated the funding. She stated that once the funding is received the study would take a year. She explained that Silver Lake is the bottleneck for the water and that the levels of the lake fluctuate daily and it can be by several feet. The fluctuation in water levels has caused issues with erosion, wildlife and has caused structural issues when houses are flooded. P. Tessier stated that the dam would help keep the water levels more consistent. J. Jordan asked if they would dredge the river as part of the overall project and D. Naiva asked about the impact on the fish.

P. Tessier also updated the Commission on the Invasive Plant Species signs for neighboring towns of Tilton and Northfield. She has permission to put up the sign in Tilton; Northfield has a meeting on June 13th, she will find out after the meeting if the sign may be installed.

Winnisquam Watershed Network

E. Stephenson reported that they have a draft version of the watershed management plan. He will forward a copy to the Commission members for their information. He informed the Commission that over the Memorial Day Weekend the Lake Hosts checked 250 boats over three days. He did not know of any findings of invasives, that information was not yet available. E. Stephenson informed the members that he had taken a marine biologist intern out on the lake to show him around earlier that day. He noted that while out on the lake they spotted loons, a heron, eagles and osprey.

Budget/Expenditures

K. Santoro will forward the balance of the Conservation Commission budget to D. Naiva.

Non-public Session

- RSA 91-A:3 II (d) (if necessary)

None.

Upcoming Meetings:

July Meeting – canceled

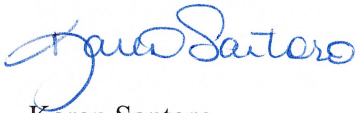
August Meeting – August 3rd

September Meeting – September 14th

Adjournment:

MOTION: On a motion by J. Jordan, seconded by P. Tessier, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:23 pm. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted:



Karen Santoro
Land Use Technician