



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF BELMONT, NH

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Belmont Mill Tioga Conference Room and Remotely by Zoom
Belmont, NH

Present: Chair Denise Naiva; Vice Chair Pauline Tessier; Members Ed Stephenson, Deb Woodcock, Georgina Lambert; Alternate Members Richard Moreau, Jeff DeFrancesco; Ex-Officio Sharn Ciampi; Student Members Emilie DeFrancesco (Zoom), Emerson Decato (Zoom)

Absent: Member Jane Jordan

Staff: Roderick Cameron, Land Use Technician and Jenn Thomas, Land Use Clerk

D. Naiva opened the meeting at 6:04 pm.

D. Naiva requested that the minutes be added to the Belmont town website as well as member information.

Membership:

P.Tessier advised the group that she may have a potential interest in the open alternate position.

Minutes:

P.Tessier made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of April 10, 2024. E.Stephenson seconded the motion. All in favor (5-0).

Conserved Properties Updates:

Andrew Sanborn Farm – R.Cameron stated that he had visited the Andrew Sanborn Farm property on April 16, 2024 due to a significant number of trees down across the trails. The property was inspected and a little bit of clearing had been done. An 18–24-inch white pine was removed on April 20, 2024 with a chainsaw & the remaining trails were cleared with the assistance of Jeff Blaney. R.Cameron suggests that the commission consider J.Blaney become a steward for the property along with D.Naiva.

Town Forest – R.Cameron reported that Alfred Fecteau of 28 Main Street came into the Land Use office with concerns of several large trees from the Town Forrest that had fallen into the Tioga River causing a log jam & that this may cause flooding of his property. The property was inspected & followed up on with Craig Clairmont (DPW), D.Naiva & J.DeFrancesco. J.DeFrancesco shared it took him 5 hours to clear tree debris from the Belmont High School parking lot to the orange fencing. J.Defrancesco questioned the property line at the high school and where it ends due to tires, pavement pieces being left & building up on the edge. R.Cameron will follow up.

Discussion ensued in regards to consent forms & whether or not they are required for things when property owners are doing any maintenance on town owned properties. D.Naiva prefers to have the official word come from the Town Administrator.

Land Steward roles – D.Woodcock would like to co-steward with R.Moreau on the Bean Dam property. D.Naiva requested that the Land Steward roles be added to the Rules of Administration.

Other – D.Naiva discussed the Property Monitoring form, adding parking area, kiosks and signage. A brief discussion ensued in regards to what should remain on the form and what should be removed.

Old Business:

D.Naiva shared that the Tioga invasive evaluation is scheduled for May 15, 2024 @1pm. D.Naiva informed the commission of an upcoming conference; NHACC Health & Climate Webinar to be held June 14, 2024 from 8:30am to 4:30pm in Nottingham NH.

Budget/Expenditures: E.Stephenson made a motion to expend \$80.00 for G.Lambert to attend the NHACC Health & Climate Webinar on June 14, 2024. Motion was seconded by D.Woodcock. All in favor (4-0).

Silver Lake Association: P.Tessier shared that the lake has dropped under the no wake zone by 4 inches and is due to go down another 8 inches.

Winnisquam Watershed Network E.Stephenson shared that the loon nest has been put out in the north area and 3 island. D.Naiva asked if signs go out and E.Stephenson advised that signs are put up.

Student Members Questions/Activities: E.Decato updated the commission on Earth day and that the High School students went out and cleaned up the streets and cross country trails which made a difference. D.Naiva asked if the other student is interested in the open student position. E.Decato advised that the student is interested.

New Business:

Conservation Lands Signage Update – R.Cameron met with Dan Adele of Adele signs in Gilmanton to evaluate the conditions of the Town Forrest, Tioga Marsh, Andrew Sanborn and Pops Woods signs. An estimate will be provided to the commission.

Community Outreach – J.DeFrancesco reported that the commission as well as the library will conduct The Open World Explorers slide show on bird watching on May 22, 2024 @6pm (Penstock Room). J.DeFrancesco also added that the FB count is now at 60. D.Woodcock added that on May 25, 2024, will be meeting at the Village Spur Trail parking lot to utilize the iNaturalist app & a feedback up will be given at the June meeting.

Discussion ensued with regards to Old Home Day.

Discussion ensued with regards to adding an additional name to the Jeff Marden Scholarship Fund. The commission decided not to make any changes and the name is to remain the same; The Jeff Marden Scholarship Fund.

On a motion made by G.Lambert, and seconded by S.Ciampi the meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Non-public Session:

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

Respectfully,

Jenn Thomas

Jenn Thomas, Land Use Clerk