BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday September 10, 2025

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

Present:
Pauline Tessier - Chair, Denise Naiva - Vice-Chair
Members: Ed Stephenson, Jane Jordan, Tom Ceniglio
Alternate Members: Tabatha Lord
Student Members: None Present

Zoom Attendance:
Sharon Ciampi, Ex-Officio

Absent:
Members: Tyson Morrill

Staff:
Roderick Cameron, Land Use Technician

Call to Order:

Pauline Tessier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Membership:

P. Tessier stated that there are two (2) Alternate Member Vacancies.

Minutes:

P. Tessier asked for a motion to accept the corrected June 11th Meeting Minutes. Jane Jordan made a motion to accept the June 11 Meeting Minutes, Ed Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Conservation Properties Updates:

- **Town Forest Report:**

  A discussion was opened up by P. Tessier regarding the Town Forest Entrance Sign. She stated that its condition was continuing to deteriorate and the sign needed to be replaced. J. Jordan asked R. Cameron if he had the cost proposal to replace the Property signs. He responded that he had obtained a cost proposal from Adel Signs last year and would have to check with Dan Adel to see if the quoted price has remained the same. D. Naiva suggested that the Commission should avoid wood signs because of the maintenance issues.

  There was continued discussion regarding the repair(s) on some bridges. P. Tessier said that Richard Moreau volunteered to assist the Commission to repair the bridges. He is currently storing the lumber that was purchased last year for bridge repair. Some suggestions were mentioned regarding using the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts to help maintain some of the trails. R. Cameron suggested they contact Belmont High School whose cross country team uses the Town Forest trails for practice and some meets. P. Tessier stated she sent an email to the school to see if there was any way to utilize the students to help out maintaining the trails.

- **Tioga River Report:**

  P. Tessier mentioned that she received the report from the volunteers from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) Group who were pulling glossy buckthorn. She mentioned that SCA stated in the report that earlier prioritization to the problem areas would have be helpful. D. Naiva asked that the report be shared with Conservation Commission members.

- **Currier-Sanborn Report:**

  P. Tessier mentioned that they are having a lot of problems with four wheelers on the property. She asked

R. Cameron to check with Belmont Public Works to see if they would install the gate, that was donated last year, at the property entrance off Gardners Grove Road. R. Cameron said that he would contact Public Works.

- **Sanborn Farm Report:**

  Pauline stated that she had received a draft copy of the revised Andrew Sanborn Farm and Pop's Woods Conservation Lands Forest Management Plan prepared by Ron Klemarczyk of Forest Resource Consultants and dated August 2025. She said that she had read the report and suggested that the Conservation Commission take some time to evaluate the report's recommendations before acting on them.

  P. Tessier mentioned that Brian Denutte, who manages the 4H Fair Ground, recently obtained a new tractor and brush mower. He has offered to mow areas of invasives at the Mile Hill property. D. Naiva stated that because the invasives areas had been mowed last year, it was not necessary to mow them again so soon. She suggested that they could wait until next year or the year after.

Winnisquam Watershed Network:

E. Stephenson reported that the raft nest he put out on the lake in May was not used this season and no chicks were hatched. This nest is one of 156 across the 350 lakes the Loon Preservation Committee monitors across the state. With three nesting pairs, Winnisquam has been a prime example of the success of the conservation efforts to preserve loons in our region.

Silver Lake Association:

P. Tessier stated that she had received a request from the Silver Lake Association for $2,000.00 for the Milfoil Control Program. She asked for a motion to approve the expenditure. D. Naiva made a motion to give the Silver Lake Milfoil Control Project $2,000.00 from the Conservation Commission's Invasive Species budget line item. E. Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

- **Budget**

  P. Tessier asked R. Cameron how much money the Conservation Commission had left in their annual budget. R. Cameron stated that he had spoken with Karen Santoro, Town Planner and Stephen Forster, Finance Director before the meeting about obtaining the budget numbers. He was told that the numbers weren't available at that time but would be available for the next meeting.

- **Donations/Dues**

  P. Tessier said that she would like to donate $300.00 to NH Lakes. J. Jordan suggested that they wait for R. Cameron to report on the monies available before sending a check. The consensus was to wait for the budget information.

- **Hunting Season**

  P. Tessier reminded everyone that Hunting Season started on Labor Day and people recreating on Conservation properties should dress appropriately and be alert.

- **Speakers**

  P. Tessier mentioned that she had contacted the University of New Hampshire Extension to see about obtaining speakers for the Conservation Commission Speaker Program. She was told that they couldn't provide speakers because funding has been cut.

Adjournment:

P. Tessier asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Jordan made a motion to adjourn and E. Stephenson seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

John Crowley

John Crowley, Land Use Clerk