

Belmont Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 2/11/26

Meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

Attendees: Pauline Tessier, Chairperson, Tabatha Lord, Jane Jordan, Tyson Morrill, Sharon Ciampi, Rod Claremont, in person and Ed Stephenson via Zoom

Membership: 1 regular member vacancy, 3 alternate member vacancies and 2 student vacancies. Posted signs at town hall, the library and post office, also posted on Facebook. May need to wait on the students until fall when school starts again.

Minutes: Ed made a motion to accept the minutes for 1/14/26, Sharon 2nd. A roll call vote was made, all in the affirmative

Conservation Properties Update:

Town Forest: sign to be reinstalled once the weather is better

Sanborn/Pop's Woods: Forest management plan is complete

Old Business:

Wood Duck Nesting Boxes: Tyson posted on Facebook and shared on Belmont Community Facebook page. He received a lot of activity, 194 Likes, 24 comments and 12+ messages offering property, materials, one person has (2) boxes already made to donate and a local family is willing to mill wood for the duck boxes. Lots of community interest!

Tentative date for installation of the wood duck boxes is Saturday March 7th, 2026. Locations to be determined, favoring the town forest as one location with educational information on location. Will have to announce it as a meeting and invite the public.

Pauline to contact Denise to see if she has locations of the older Wood Duck boxes that are on Belmont Conservation land so they can be cleaned and repaired/replaced as needed.

Budget/Expenditures: Belknap County Conservation Commission \$400 donation request received. Will determine when to pay it with the budget being voted on.

Silver Lake Update: Pauline said the paperwork for the state grant for picking has been submitted ~ \$8750, total cost is \$17,500

Winnisquam Watershed Network: Ed said the paperwork for the state grant for picking has been submitted ~ \$12,500 total cost is \$25,000

Natural emailed and went in person with no response.

New Business:

Setting Goals for Spring /Summer 2026:

- 1) Complete Management Plan for Ladd Hill:** paid for, needs to be completed
- 2) Volunteer Days for Spring Clean-up Town Forest and Tioga Wildlife Properties:** need town and student volunteers, advertise in newsletter, social media, let the schools know
- 3) Maintenance Projects:**
 - a. Removal of brush piles at Tioga ~** will need to be chipped
 - b. Stain signposts at Tioga ~** need better weather
 - c. Repair bridges at Town forest ~** we have the materials, need better weather
- 4) Follow up with BCCD on completion of grant funds for Pop's Wood Property**
~ reaching out to see what can be done to move it along. Funding has been cut so manpower is limited
- 5) Arrange for one or two public presentations, either training or subject of interest ~** some ideas Bee Keeping, bats, solar
- 6) Locate existing Wood Duck nesting boxes on our conservation lands, to be inspected, cleaned and repaired as needed ~** Pauline to contact Denise to get locations
- 7) Install new Wood Duck nesting houses on our properties. Create Map to show locations ~** tentative installation date 3/7/26
- 8) Work on extending trails at Tioga Wildlife Property ~** will evaluate and create plan in spring

Other Business:

Natural Resource Inventory report: we need to push to have the grant process completed so we can have the Natural Resources Inventory report updated. Last updated was 2007. The Town Master Plan has not been updated since 2002. The Natural Resources Inventory report is part of the Town Master Plan which is being looked at for a new or updated plan. This will allow the commission to see what is at risk, what is protected and what needs to be protected.

Tree City USA: part of Arbor Day, looking into how to get certified and how it can help the town and Conservation Commission

Belnap County Conservation Commission Tree/Shrub sale ends 2/20/26

Old Business:

Generic business cards for conservation commission: Rod to create, print a Staples

Jane made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ed seconded. A roll call was made and all were in affirmative

Meeting adjourned 7:03pm