

Acting Vice Chairman Deb Kimball opened the meeting at 7:06. Other members in attendance were Celia Abrams, Susan Mooney, Cheryl Smith, Kristen Lamb, Noel Carlson and Raelene Shippee-Rice, alternate, who sat in for Sam Demeritt. Guest was John Terninko, resident.

New England Cottontail: John Terninko owns a 107 parcel in a conservation easement. The easement deed is held by the town. Mr. Terninko is presently working with NRCS to develop habitat for New England Cottontail on 30 acres of that parcel. The activity is permitted by the easement deed. Activity will begin this fall to prepare the area. Three pieces of approximately 10 acres each will be selectively cut in three successive years and replanted with suitable native species for early successional habitat. Cottontail will be introduced in the fourth year. The Commission members were pleased with this project to assist a species of interest that has been in rapid decline in the last fifty years as farm pasture and other similar habitats have reverted to forest or been developed. Mr. Terninko left at 7:22.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of May 14, 2012 were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Mooney and seconded by Abrams; all votes were in favor. The minutes for June 11, 2012 were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Mooney and seconded by Smith; all votes were in favor.

Easements: A property owner in Nottingham owns a parcel of almost 100 acres. Wetlands on the property contain special plant species. A member was contacted to inquire if this property would be of interest to the town for conservation easement protection. The member indicated that the Commission would place this project on the agenda for the August meeting.

Abrams attended "How to Lead a Field Walk 101" presented by the Forest Society and UNH Cooperative Extension. At the workshop she spoke with Mr. Anderson of the Forest Society to inquire about trail development in Mulligan Forest. The proposal to do trail work had been made by a former Commission member and he resigned before that project was begun. An email from one of the property owners indicated that they (the owners) had talked about trail development among themselves. There was a discussion as to how to develop trails such as those in Bear Brook State Park. The Commission will invite the owners of Mulligan to the August meeting to discuss this topic.

LRWA, River Water Testing: Deb Stevens has resigned from the Commission and she had volunteered to participate in the water testing program this summer. Other members were asked to fill in the two testing dates.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to review.

Possible Wetlands Violations: There is a possible wetlands violation on Stage Road (Route 152). There is a pile of fill near a small wetland at the site. Demeritt and Paul Colby, Building Inspector, will inspect the site together.

Kimball spoke about the Hall's Way road reconstruction. In the area by the stream culvert the roadbed had been built up an estimated 10 feet from the surrounding land. At the stream site there were no erosion control measures in place and silt and gravel were washing into the stream. Photos showed the extent of the erosion that had occurred. Members agreed that it would be best if she would speak directly to the road agent about this situation.

Invasive Species: Smith still intends to contact Doug Cygan, the state Invasive Species person in order to set up a date and time when he would be able to speak with the Board of Selectmen and road agent re: best practices for road work to minimize the spread of invasives such as Japanese Knotweed.

Member Resignation: With much regret, the Commission accepted Deb Steven's resignation. The motion was made by Mooney and seconded by Carlson. All votes were in favor.

Other: Abrams related that Denise Hart had sent along information that there is grant money available for towns to purchase property for town forests. Discussion followed that a town forest could be managed to provide revenue from timber harvests and to provide fuel assistance for residents.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mooney and seconded by Shippee-Rice. All votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on August 20, 2012. Corrections have been made.