

Chairman Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:01. Other members in attendance were Celia Abrams, Cheryl Smith, Noel Carlson, Susan Mooney and Raelene Shippee-Rice, Alternate, who sat for Kirsten Lamb. Deb Kimball arrived at 7:06. Guests were Christian Smith, Beal's Associates, and James Fraser of Patriots' Lane, Nottingham.

Oak Ridge Housing Development: Mr. Smith, representing the developer, brought the Commission up to date with plans for the Oak Ridge parcel located in the northeast area of Nottingham and identified as Map 10, Lots 8 & 9 and Map 8, Lots 9 & 8-21.. The total acreage is 154 acres. The Open Space Development (Plan A) would have a 4930-foot through road to accommodate 43 proposed lots. There would be three open space areas of 51.94 acres, 12.41 acres and 18.37 acres, for a total of 82.72 acres. The through road would separate two of the open space areas with the third and the arrangement of homes would separate the two open space areas that are on the same side of the road from each other. There would be a 200-foot wildlife corridor, including a proposed wetland crossing, across said road from the single open space area to the other two.

The Open Space Development (Plan B) would require a NRCS Wetland Reserve Program easement grant to purchase the development rights of 15 house lots in the middle of the parcel. Removal of these house lots would eliminate the need for a through road (1500' of road would be eliminated) and would result in a single large contiguous open space area of 107 acres. No wetland crossings would be needed with Plan B. The number of house lots would be reduced from 43 to 28 and the total developed acreage would be reduced to 47 acres.

NRCS funding would reimburse the owner for 74 percent of the development value of the 15 lots, presently valued at \$600,000; 74% of the value is \$444,000. The owner is looking to the town to support this application with \$100,000 through the Conservation Fund. The remainder of the property's value, about \$56,000, will be "gifted" by the owner. At the present time there is no funding available for new proposals through the NRCS but it is expected that funds will be provided within one to two years from this time. The Planning Board has reviewed these proposals and the Planning Board is satisfied with the plans.

Mooney asked Mr. Smith if the owner would be satisfied with a reimbursement of \$100,000 from the town for Plan B, and Mr. Smith indicated that was the case. Mr. Smith left the meeting at 7:32.

Easement Deed Restrictions at Highlands: Mr. Frasier, who lives on Patriots' Lane, Map 16, Lot 25, was concerned that although his property has only a small wedge of conservation easement area that there are an over abundance of conservation area medallions facing his house in his back yard. He also thought

that some of the medallions were not located on conservation land at all. Members of the Commission and Mr. Fraser will set up an appointment in the spring to inspect these issues. Mr. Frasier left at 7:55.

Oak Ridge Housing Development: Commission members reviewed the plans that Mr. Smith left for our use. Carlson moved to support the Oak Ridge conservation easement up to \$100,000, contingent upon a NRCS grant to purchase 74% of the development rights of the 15 lots and the through road area in the middle of the parcel. Shippee-Rice seconded the motion. During the discussion it was determined that the Commission would prefer that public access be allowed, but that this issue can be revisited at a later date. The vote was called. All seven votes supported the motion. Demeritt will contact the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen to apprise them of this vote.

Minutes: The minutes for February 11, 2013 were reviewed. The minutes were accepted as read. The motion was made by Smith, seconded by Shippee-Rice; five votes were in favor and there were two abstentions.

Correspondence:

- Intent to Cut: Dated 2/16/13, property is owned by Terninko on Case Road, located at Map 9, Lot 11, to cut 10 acres on a parcel with a total of 107 acres. Timber to be harvested will be predominately white pine, with lesser amounts of hemlock and oak. Pallet and tie logs, chips and cordwood will also be harvested. This timber cut is part of the program to develop cottontail habitat, a native species whose population numbers and habitat areas have diminished precipitously in the last several decades.
- Intent to Cut: Dated 2/25/13, property owned by Frederick Fernald of Wolfboro, parcel is located on Smoke Street, Map 23, Lot 11, on a 112 acre parcel. Number of acres to be cut was not indicated. White pine, hemlock and hardwoods were the predominant species listed for harvest.
- Saving Special Places is an annual daylong conference for community board and commission members interested in conservation issues. A variety of workshops and field trips are offered that span legal and practical topics of conservation. The Forest Society and other NH agencies sponsor the Conference. This year the Conference will be Saturday April 6. Several members indicated that they would be interested in attending this year.

- The RCCD Annual Report from the Rockingham County Conservation District was received.

Bear-Paw Report: Demeritt said that there would be an Easement Monitoring Training Session offered on April 27. The Spring Wildflower Walk scheduled for May 11 has been cancelled. An alternate event will be planned. July 20 is the Firefly and Moth event; the Second Annual Auction will take place on November 2nd the Concord Elks in Epsom. The rest of the year's activities are as they were stated in the minutes of 2/11/13.

LRWA Report: Demeritt reported on an important future event of the Lamprey River Watershed Association. The 30th anniversary of the LRWA will be celebrated on either October 17 or 18, possibly to be held at the Congregational Church in Lee.

Other Business:

Mooney reminded Commission members that we would be meeting again with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) on Nottingham's road salt and sand use practices on March 25. Shippee-Rice, Abrams, Lamb and Mooney met with the BOS on February 25 on this issue.

Abrams serves on the Blaisdell Memorial Library Landscaping Committee. The Committee will be meeting on March 19 to discuss an area of concern: the invasive and problematic species on the library property.

Demeritt will follow up with DES re: the four wheelers crossing a stream on property located on Freeman Hall Road in 2012. This stream flows through the Kimball Family Forest conservation easement property and then empties into the North River.

Smith noted that there is a "new" pile of sand at the North River bridge crossing which has the invasive knotweed growing out of it. The Commission will follow up on this issue.

A motion to adjourn was made by Carlson and seconded by Kimball. All votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as amended at the meeting held on April 8, 2013. Corrections have been made.

