

Chairman Sam Demeritt called the meeting to order at 7:05. Other members in attendance were Kristen Lamb, Susan Mooney, Cheryl Smith, sitting member who is awaiting reappointment by the Board of Selectmen and Deb Kimball. At 7:05, Kimball was being sworn in by the town clerk for another three-year term and arrived to the meeting at 7:15.

Member Status: Mooney was recently sworn in for another three-year term. On March 10, 2014 Chair Demeritt corresponded in writing to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) that Smith and Celia Abrams be reappointed to the Commission. As of this date (4-14-14) the BOS have not reappointed these members because they had questions about term limits, the number of voting members allowed, the number of alternates, and votes taken in the recent past in which reappointed members had not yet been sworn in. (Note: Within the past month, Celia Abrams has notified the Commission and the Business Office that she is no longer interested in being a Commission member.) There followed discussion about sitting members and alternates and when their three-year terms were up. Members researched FAQ posted by the NH Municipal Association (NHMA), formerly the Local Government Center (LGC), and found the following “ A conservation commission is not a land use board” and that “ Members continue to sit on their boards or commissions until a replacement has been appointed and the replacement has been sworn in”.

Minutes: The minutes of February 10, 2014 were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Mooney, seconded by Lamb and the vote carried with three yeas and one abstention by Smith.

It was decided to postpone discussion of the **Four Generals’ Greenway** until after the strategic planning workshop meeting.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG) Report: Demeritt listed upcoming BPRG activities open to the public. These include a field trip for outdoor skills from the BPRG office on April 26; a spring migration bird watch led by Stephen Hale on May 10; and the Annual Biothon on June 14.

Renewal request from the DOT to the Commission for the **Adopt a Highway** for roadside litter cleanup along a mile each of Routes 152 and 156 for April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2015 is due. A motion was made by Mooney and seconded by Lamb to renew the contract. Three votes were yeas, with one abstention.

The Commission’s first **highway cleanup** will be on Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, commencing at 8:30 AM.

(Note: Kimball arrived after being sworn in by the town clerk.)

Membership to Bear-Paw Regional Greenways was renewed. The \$100 is in the Commission's budget for this fiscal year.

The last six draft large format maps will be presented by Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) at the next Planning Board meeting to be held on April 23. The Board and SRPC have invited the Commission to assist with the reviews since several of these maps are conservation related.

Correspondence:

- Dated 3-17-14, from Land Resources Management, DES, to Harbor Street Limited Partnership, File # 2014-00645 re: Oakridge-Friar Tuck housing development, that there is missing information in the application package.
- Dated 4-10-14, from DES, to David and Krista Brown, 203 Raymond Road, File # 2014-00648, for property located at 46 Jamps Trail; a Shoreland Impact Permit to construct a new dwelling and associated additional improvements. The project that will impact 14,715 ft² is subject to 10 site-specific conditions and seven general conditions.

The BOS have invited the Commission to discuss current easement projects among other items related to the Conservation Fund. It was agreed that it is in the public's best interest that this meeting be open to the public so the residents may hear any information presented. This meeting is scheduled for May 10. (Note: since 4-14-14, Charlie Brown, Town Administrator communicated with the Commission that landowners who wish to remain unidentified during easement discussions with the Commission may be identified by an alpha numeric designation such as "T2" during public discussions. This has been the Commission's major hesitancy with the BOS request to delivery documents to the Business Office one week prior to the meeting with the BOS. There would be no way to honor a land owner's wish to remain unidentified if formal names with Map and Lot numbers were requested before hand. And when documents were delivered subsequently with alphanumeric designations, the Commission was asked to again reschedule to June 2.)

There also followed a discussion that a meeting with the BOS would be a good opportunity to educate the new Board member and the viewing audience about conservation easements and the Commission's role as agents to assist landowners who wish to place their property into conservation easements and the steps that are involved. Demeritt will forward a suggested agenda to the BOS that would include this educational information in addition to a request that the session be open to the public.

Smith requested a reimbursement for the registration fee for the **Saving Special Places** conference. It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Lamb to approve a reimbursement of \$60 from the Commission's budget to Smith for the

registration fee for Saving Special Places. All four votes were in favor (Smith abstained).

At the March 10, 2014 Commission meeting there were votes taken to reallocate and allocate Conservation Funds of two current projects. Due to the current uncertainty re: membership, etc. put forward by the BOS it seemed prudent to the Commission to not in any way jeopardize the landowners who are in negotiations with the Commission on their current easement project. Two motions follow that reinforce these previous motions.

A motion was made by Kimball and seconded by Mooney to delay the Kennard conservation easement project and to allocate the \$12,500 to the P1 easement. Four votes were in favor; Smith abstained. **The motion carried.**

A motion was made by Lamb and seconded by Kimball to apply the current uncommitted balance of the Conservation Fund of \$72,800 to the P1 easement. Four votes were in favor; Smith abstained. **The motion carried.**

(Note: Landowner P1 is asking for a reimbursement of \$250,000 for some of the land value lost when the potential for future housing is extinguished by a conservation easement. At the December 2013 meeting a sum of \$150,000 from the Conservation Fund was allocated for the P1 easement. The P1 easement still requires another \$15,000 (approximately) with an anticipated additional approximate amount of \$15,000 for administrative costs for the easement process and deed.)

There will be a Commission workshop meeting on Wednesday, April 16, at 6:30 to continue strategic planning.

The Commission adopted the following mission statement, through a motion made by Mooney and seconded by Lamb, as follows: **“The Mission of the Nottingham Conservation Commission is to collaborate with local and regional boards and organizations to inventory, map and protect Nottingham’s natural resources and open space”.** Four votes were in favor, the motion passed.

The Commission adopted the following vision statement, through a motion made by Mooney and seconded by Kimball, as follows: **“ The Nottingham Conservation Commission envisions a community that works together to protect water quality and other natural resources for the benefit of Nottingham and its residents”.** Four votes were in favor. The motion passed.

A spring bird and plant walk to be hosted by the Commission was discussed. Lamb will be in charge of planning. Target date would be May 17 or 18, from 8:30 to 11:00.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mooney and seconded by Kimball. All votes were in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 9:07.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as amended at the meeting held on May 12, 2014.