

Nottingham Conservation Commission Minutes for June 9, 2014

Chairman Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:04. Other members in attendance were Cheryl Smith, Raelene Shippee-Rice, alternate, Susan Mooney, Debra Kimball and Kristen Lamb. Shippee-Rice was seated for Noel Carlson. Guests were Johan Kerkhove and Terry Bonser, both residents of Nottingham. Mr. Kerkhove indicated that he might be interested in becoming a member.

The Commission voted to move into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 I & II (j) at 7:08. The motion was made by Mooney, seconded by Kimball and all six votes were in favor. Mr. Bonser and Mr. Kerkhove left the room.

At 7:48, it was moved to seal the minutes per RSA 91-A:3 III. The motion was made by Smith, seconded by Shippee-Rice, and all six votes were in favor.

It was moved by Mooney, seconded by Smith to move out of public session. All six votes were in favor. The Commission moved into public session at 7:48.

All six votes were in favor. It was (again) moved by Smith, seconded by Kimball to seal the minutes of the closed session per RSA 91-A:3 III.

Kerkhove and Bonser returned to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- The minutes of the April 16 workshop meeting are not yet complete and will be postponed to the next meeting.
- The minutes of May 12, 2014 were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Mooney, seconded by Shippee-Rice and all six votes were in favor.
- The minutes of the May 12, non-public session were postponed until the next meeting when the Commission is in a non-public session.

Strategic Plan: Lamb will send the Strategic Plan to the Planning Board and will suggest a joint meeting with them.

Roadside Cleanup: The next roadside cleanup of one mile each of Routes 152 and 156 will be held on Tuesday, June 24 at 8:30 AM. Volunteers for the clean up are Demeritt, Shippee-Rice, Kimball, Mooney and possibly Smith.

Meeting with the Board of Selectmen: Topics that were discussed at the June 2 meeting included the following:

- The basics of a conservation commission and terminologies;

- Restrictions that land owners may place into conservation easement deeds;
- The Commission's Strategic Plan, including the benchmarks for conservation commissions as stated in RSA 36-A:2 and to improve communications between the Commission and town boards;
- Current and pending conservation easement projects;
- The Four Generals' Greenway which led to a discussion of a overlay map for the conservation map being done by Strafford Regional Planning Commission;
- A list of the conservation easements monitored by the Commission on behalf of the town; and
- How potential conservation easements are evaluated including a quantitative ranking document used by the Commission.

The Commission will meet again with the Board of Selectmen on September 8. This will be a follow up meeting for the one held on June 2, 2014.

Member appointment recommendation: Shippee-Rice indicated that she would be pleased to become a regular member of the Commission. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Raelene Shippee-Rice be appointed to full member status to fill the vacancy when Abrams did not seek an additional three-year appointment. Shippee-Rice has served as an alternate on the Commission since April 2012. All six votes to recommend Shippee-Rice for full member status were in favor.

Lamprey River Watershed Association: Demeritt reported that the Raymond Regatta that was cosponsored with the Raymond Recreation Department was a successful event.

Nottingham Family Day will be held on September 20. Demeritt will not be available to attend. Other members were not sure of their schedules. This will be discussed at the July meeting.

Restoration of North River Reserve: Dan Kern, Executive Director of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways arrived at 8:03. Bear-Paw owns in fee the 50+ acre parcel known as the North River Reserve. The area of the Reserve by the North River Bridge along Route 152 is scheduled for wetlands restoration as per the conservation easement deed held by NRCS. Because this is a popular fishing site, public access decisions were made to include a modest parking area to accommodate five to six cars with a turn area to for a total area of 70 X 20 feet. Boulders may possibly be used to contain vehicles within the restricted area. There are plans to construct a stepped canoe/kayak launch. The drainage flow

will be redirected so flowage will not drain directly into the river. The gully will be repaired and the banks stabilized. There might be a picnic table provided and a kiosk. There are plans to formalize a riverside trail along the river on the Reserve property and Bear-Paw might apply for a grant from Recreational Trails for this part of the project. There will be a grand opening this fall and there will be information available for Nottingham Family Day.

Kennard Parcel: The Kennard property on Kennard Road that is now owned in fee by the town will have a conservation easement placed on it as wished by the previous owner. It has been determined by the Board of Selectmen that Bear-Paw's project estimate costs for this project were the most reasonable of the area land trust groups so the Commission can move forward with Bear-Paw at any time. Funding for the easement, as with the fee purchase will be used from the town's Conservation Fund – no property taxes will be used for this project. Discussion also included a possible timber harvest for fuel wood assistance. Smith indicated that this was a topic covered at the Forest Society's Saving Special Places Conference held this year. For this to proceed, a forestry Management Plan will need to be developed.

Potential Easement: Demeritt reported that a property owner on Kennard Road has a "small" parcel that she might be interested in putting into a conservation easement. While the acreage is modest, there is quite a bit of road frontage, which would make it more valuable for a conservation easement restriction. The property is near to other large parcels which also makes it more valuable for protection. The property is wooded and it surrounds a single dwelling. The owner is looking for assistance for the administrative costs only. She is not interested in any reimbursement for the loss in value of the property when it is permanently protected from any future new housing units and mining. Demeritt indicated to the owner that the time frame would be one to two years. It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Shippee-Rice to support the Elizabeth Saunders conservation easement project. All six votes were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Kern left the meeting at 8:42.

Correspondence:

- A reminder from Bear-Paw re: the open house at Al Jaeger's in Deerfield.
- A card from DES re: Watershed Assistance Grants. The deadline for applications is 7-11.
- May 8, to David Price, Wetlands Bureau, DES, from Todd Piskovitz, Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRWC), Project Review Subcommittee Chair, re: property identified as Tax Map 1, Lot 70C on Cooper Hill Road owned by Daniels that because this property is within the ¼ mile corridor of the Lamprey River watershed it falls under the purview

of the LRAC. Piskovitz and committee reviewed the permit application for a driveway across wetlands and noted that while the written application calls for a two-foot minimum depth of ditch it is drawn as a one-foot depth. In the letter the LRAC stated that they believe that a "one foot maximum ditch should be sufficient and would (mean) less disturbance of the adjacent upland". (Note: On May 23, Commission members Demeritt, Lamb and Mooney walked the potential path of the proposed driveway across three small wetlands with Daniels, the property owner, engineer Farwell and surveyor Landry. The wetlands were dry and the areas were covered in last year's leaves indicating little to no flowage of these vernal pools.)

- May 5, to Ridge Mauck, Alteration of Terrain Permits, DES, from Todd Piskovitz (see above), re: Maple Ridge housing development project, a letter containing eleven (11) comments pertaining to the Alteration of Terrain permit, as follows: the length of the proposed road through three wetland crossings, the large cut slope, treatment swales, infiltration basins, and that there appear to be errors in some of the details provided by the engineering specs.
- Received: a book distributed by UNH Cooperative Extension on behalf of the Granite State Dairy Promotion agency entitled "The History and Economics of the NH Dairy Industry from UNH Cooperative Extension". Demeritt will bring the book to the Blaisdell Memorial Library to share with the community.

Members of the Commission chatted with Mr. Kerkhove. He is an engineer by trade and had recently moved to Nottingham from California. He likes the outdoors and was interested in having an active role in the town. Members told him about the Commission's activities and responsibilities.

Kimball reported that we are still not receiving "Intent to Cut" notices from the Business Office since the beginning of the year. Demeritt will check with Sue Serino and ask her for these forms since they often can give the Commission a "heads up" for possible new housing activity in town.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Shippee-Rice to adjourn the meeting. All six votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on July 14, 2014.