

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:05. Also present were Susan Mooney, Kristen Lamb, Cheryl Smith, Johan Kerkhove, alternate, and Terry Bonser, alternate. Raelene Shippee-Rice was being sworn in as a full member in the town clerk's office. Kerkhove was seated for Noel Carlson and Bonser was seated for Debra Kimball. Kimball arrived at 7:12 so Bonser was then seated for Shippee-Rice. Guests were Mark West, Wetlands Scientist, Frederick Fernald, Helen Fernald, landowners in Nottingham, their son Alex Fernald and Tom Howe, representing The Forest Society (SPNHF).

**Minimum Expedited Permit:** Mr. West, representing property owner Laurie Weisz, was looking for Commission approval to dredge a pond that was constructed years ago but has filled in with silt and organic material and wetland plants such as cattails. The property is identified as Map 46, Lot 10 and is a 100-acre property on Stevens Hill Road. Most of the property is conserved under the Wetlands Reserve Program through NRCS. The residence and barn are not included in the conservation easement. Of the 100 conserved acres, there are 16 acres of wetland including a 14-acre black gum swamp. The aforementioned pond is 18,000 ft<sup>2</sup> and it is presently 12 feet deep. It was constructed in an upland area above a natural spring and over time has filled in. Mr. West indicated that the project would be done in August when it is driest, the pond will be dredged to historical depth, the cattails and other littoral plants will be removed and a steep slope will be constructed to discourage natural reseeding of the emergent plants. The area will be seeded and stabilized with native flora. Additionally, invasive species of plants will be removed from the adjacent field. Kerkhove expressed concern for where the dredge material and plant waste "spoils" will be placed. West said they would be put into a lower area of upland. Blandings turtle, a protected NH specie, and painted turtles have been noted in the area. Lamb was not in favor of disturbing the site where Blandings eggs might be incubating; there followed a discussion about postponing the project to a later date, and activities of other wetland species in the summer and fall. It was decided that West would inspect the area prior to dredging activities to determine if there are any turtle nests at the site. If so, then the equipment will be directed away from those areas.

A motion was made by Mooney and seconded by Kimball to approve the Minimum Expedited Permit contingent upon Mr. West's prior inspection of the site to determine if any Blandings turtle nests are located there. All seven votes were in the affirmative.

Mr. West thanked the Commission and left at 7:23. At the same time Shippee-Rice arrived. Mr. Bonser volunteered to sit down.

**Conservation Easement Project:** The Fernald party and Tom Howe were at the meeting to discuss a 95.5 acre conservation easement identified as Map 52, Lot 4-

1. This easement had been previously been discussed in non-public sessions as per RSA 91-A:3 and was known to the public only as P1 and the amount of funding that had been directed from the Conservation Fund toward this project.

Mr. Howe gave an overview of the project and process. Nottingham will be a funding partner and the Forest Society will be the primary interest holder of the conservation easement deed. Helen Fernald will remain as the trustee of the trust that owns the fee interest (the family trust will still own and manage the land). The property has 960 feet of frontage on Pawtuckaway Lake, 1827 feet of frontage on Deerfield Road and abuts the State Park along the west boundary. The property is described as “well managed forest land ... (including) perched wetlands with frontage on Mile Brook containing a few black gum trees”. The Natural Heritage Bureau has estimated that these trees with a 20” DBH could be 300 years old. The NH Wildlife Action Plan gives the property “a high score”. The Fernald Family accepted \$250,000 from the Conservation Commission toward the conservation easement. In February 2013, the appraised full value of the conservation easement was valued to be between \$550,000 and \$560,000. The Fernald Family is gifting the remaining \$300,000 to \$310,000 of the appraised easement value. The Forest Society will be responsible for the administrative costs of the project. The Executory Interest of the easement will be given to the Town of Nottingham. The Forest Society will monitor the property annually to insure that activities on the property are in compliance with the conservation easement. There will be no house lots on the easement. There will be guaranteed public access. Owner discretion will or will not provide a parking area, allow snowmobiles, hunting and fishing. At the present time hunting and fishing is permitted.

Mr. Howe next discussed the time line for moving the project forward. It was tentatively agreed to hold the Public Hearing, as per RSA 36-A:5 I & II. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) will need sufficient time to review the easement deed and other legal documents associated with the project and one or two preliminary meetings with the BOS should be scheduled prior to the Public Hearing. Demeritt will communicate with the BOS about a meeting schedule dependent upon Mr. Howe’s own schedule and that of the Fernalds’ Mr. Howe will send a fact sheet on the project to Demeritt for public distribution.

The Fernald party and Mr. Howe left the meeting at 8:08.

**VRAP River Water testing:** The testing of river water quality at two sites on the North River and from one site on Little River is problem free so far and on schedule. Bonser and Kerkhove were invited to join a testing session to become familiar with the equipment and procedures.

**Correspondence:**

- Dated June 10, 2014, from DES to Harbor Street Limited Development re: Maple Ridge, Approved Wetlands permit File # 2014-00645 “ for construction of a roadway for the construction of 42 single family residential lots on 153 acres”, for five wetland impacts for a total of 9854 ft<sup>2</sup>; four were wetland crossings that delineated the size and type of culvert and the remaining impact was for abutting the edge of a wetland. The application was based on eight findings; the approval is subject to 23 project specific conditions and eight general conditions.
- Dated June 16, 2014, from Ridgely Mauck, PE, Alteration of Terrain Bureau, DES, to Harbor Street Limited. A “Request for more Information” re: Alteration of Terrain Permit Application re: File # 140418-066 for Tax map/Lot 10/9, 10/10, 8/9, 8/8-21. The correspondence asked for 21 items of additional information before DES can make a final determination.
- Dated July 3, 2014, from Land Resources Management, DES, to Karen Sequeira, Map/Lot 38/33, DES File # 2014-02323, the Subsurface Systems Bureau Individual Septic Disposal System (ISDS) application (per RSA 485:A) was being “returned because it did not include minimum elements required for NHDES to begin technical review”. These elements were noted.
- Received by the town of Nottingham on July 2, 2014, from John Fernald, Road Agent Nottingham to Gino Infascelli, DES Wetlands Bureau, an application to replace a 48” culvert on Poor Farm Road and a 42” culvert on Berry Road.
- **“Intent to Cut”, Timber Harvest Notifications:**
  - 11/24/13, Map/Lot 76/2, in Pawtuckaway State Park by Garland Lumber Company, to cut 58 acres.
  - 3/1/14, Map/Lot 61/L12A, of 8 acres to cut 6. Owner Dan Gedbout.
  - 3/16/14, Map/Lot 66/2, of 36.2 acres, to cut 30. Owner Stephen and Peter White.
  - 4/2/14, Map/Lot 61/12, to cut 5 acres (total acreage not noted). Owned by Steve Morin.
  - 5/10/14, map/Lot 52/6-4, of 16 acres to cut 10. Owner Michael Kelly.
  - 4/20/14, Map/Lot 74/1 & 75/1, of 300 acres to cut 200+/- Stillbach property conservation easement, forestry management plan.

## Meeting Minutes:

- February 25, 2014, the minutes were approved as read. Motion was made by Shippee-Rice, seconded by Kimball; motion passed with three yeas and three abstentions.
- April 16, 2014, the minutes were accepted as corrected. Motion was made by Smith, seconded by Lamb; motion passed with six yeas and one abstention.
- June 9, 2014, the minutes were accepted as corrected. Motion was made by Mooney, seconded by Shippee-Rice; motion passed with six yeas and one abstention.

Due to the late hour it was decided to review the non-public minutes of 5/12/14 and 6/9/14 at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG) Report:** Demeritt reported that Ben Killam would be the featured speaker at the BPRG Annual Meeting to be held January 24, 2015. Other BPRG events can be found on the BPRG website [www.bear-paw.org](http://www.bear-paw.org). The next BPRG Newsletter will be mailed in October.

**Lamprey River Watershed Association:** Demeritt stated that there was no new news.

**Nottingham Day:** It was decided to have a booth at Nottingham Day. It will be determined what to have for display and handouts at the August meeting. At this time, members who will be able to attend are Kerkhove, Mooney, and Kimball. Mooney will contact April Bacon to ask for her help at the booth too.

**It was moved by Lamb and seconded by Kimball to adjourn.** All seven 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 November 10, 2014.

