

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:05. Other members in attendance were Susan Mooney, Cheryl Smith, Johan Kerkhove, Alternate. Kerkhove was seated for Noel Carlson. Debra Kimball arrived at 7:08. Guests were Peter Landry, Landry Surveying, LLC; Duane Hyde and Pete Viale, SouthEast Land Trust (SELT); and Nik Coates, Executive Director of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC).

Minimum Wetlands Impact Permit Application: On behalf of Mark Ustaszewski, 20 Lakeview Drive, Northwood, Mr. Landry had several copies of an application for the Commission to review before sending along to the DES Wetlands Bureau. The Expedited Review Application was for the construction of a driveway located at 62 Garland Road, identified as Tax Map 15, Lot 1-6. The 20' width driveway would impact a total of 330 square feet. A 15" HDPE culvert with headwall will be built to accommodate the wetland crossing. The Commission reviewed the application page by page and had no concerns. It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Kimball to approve the Application for 62 Garland Road. All five (5) votes were in favor. Demeritt signed the copies to be forwarded to the state. Mr. Landry left at 7:30.

NHACC Executive Director: Mr. Coates introduced himself to the Commission and stated that it was his intent to visit all conservation commissions in the state by the end of next year. There are about 234 municipalities in NH, and 216 have commissions. He has visited 66 so far. Coates wanted to give us some information about what NHACC is and where the association is going. As an organization, the NHACC focuses on three areas: education, technical assistance and lobbying at the state house. They work with both the wetlands council and the trails committees and have had positive impact on four recent bills. Senate Bill SB 388 approved a comprehensive study to see how conservation is done in NH and will be published in the publication "Study for Trust of Public Lands". One interesting finding is that for every \$1 invested in conservation there is an \$11 benefit. For this reason and others it would be beneficial for NH to fully fund LCHIP and ARM as these programs were intended.

At the NHNCC Annual Meeting "inspiring young conservationists" and "field based training in communities" were promoted. The ACC had already done six trainings so far such as "Living with Beaver", "Pulling Invasive Weeds" and "Wetland Crossings".

Coates indicated that there will be a NH Timberland Association study due out in a few weeks re: the return investment that wood contributes to the economics in NH.

Coates reminded us what the tasks of conservation commissions are: natural resources inventory (NRI), Vision and Goals, including the NRI into the town's Master Plan, landowner outreach, and establishing Rules of Procedure/ By-Laws. He recommended two publications: *The CC Guidebook* and *Conservation Funds*.

Demeritt asked what types of projects is the Conservation Fund money to be used for. Coates recommended that the expenditure be applicable to RSA 36 – A. The best source of answers to specific projects would be to ask Attorney Steve Buckley at the NH

Municipal Law Association. Commission members thanked Mr. Coates for his input. Mr. Coates left the meeting.

SELT Projects, P2 and P3: Hyde and Viale each represent two conservation easement (CE) projects in Nottingham. P2 is still confidential so the minutes which follow will identify the project only as P2. P3 is now public and is identified as the Harvey CE project that falls mostly in Epping with about 200 acres extending into Nottingham.

- P2: This project includes about 200 acres to be permanently protected with about three acres around the house to be excluded from the easement. The project includes an application for a CE through NRCS. About 25% of the land has agricultural soils, and the NRCS grant will reimburse for 50% of the easement value. The total CE value is \$1.1 million dollars plus administrative expenses. SELT expects that they will receive \$1,000,000 in federal grants and the owners will gift a portion of the \$100,000 difference with the loss of property value. There are several other funding sources being approached by SELT, including Nottingham. The Commission indicated that all of the CF money that the town has has been pledged to other projects and that we hoped to be able to financially support P2 in the near future. SELT and the owners wish to close by the end of next year so they can sell the house and property to a family that would enjoy it as they have.
- P3: The Dan Harvey CE project is a total of 1114 acres, 220 to 221 of which are located in Nottingham, and 893 in Epping. The value of the CE is \$3,089,950 million dollars. The project is expected to take two years to complete. The primary funding source will be an application to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) due to the species richness of the migratory birds that stop on this property along Rollins Brook during their migrations. Moosewood Environmental recently completed a comprehensive study. It is hoped that a NAWCA grant would cover 90% of the conservation easement value. At this time SELT is applying for additional funding sources including LCHIP for \$500,000, private fundraising/outreach of \$735,000, NH F&G, PREP, and a \$20,000 "Moose Plate" grant in addition to pledges from Epping and Nottingham. Hyde and Viale distributed spreadsheets to the members itemizing the projected support required for the two projects. Mr. Hyde spoke of the "Pawtuckaway State Park to Great Bay" initiative. Smith suggested that SELT look to the Community Loan Fund for support for the agriculture lands for these projects. Both gentlemen left at 9:05.

A workshop meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 29 to take care of the additional business not addressed at this meeting.

A motion was made by Mooney and seconded by Smith to adjourn. All votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney

These minutes were approved as amended at the meeting held on November 10, 2014.