

Chairperson Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:05. All members were present except for Susan Mooney, Debra Kimball, and Noel Carlson.

**Easement Monitoring:** The Commission discussed the findings of the recent annual easement monitoring tasks. All were in compliance of deed restrictions except for a few violations at the Highlands easement. There was one repeat violation, and another violation - cutting brush in wetlands and sensitive plant areas. Demeritt and Mooney will follow up with letters to the landowners notify the Board of Selectmen. (Note: the individual who was cutting plants in the wetlands has come forward and will cease that activity.) Observed on the Kimball Family Forest easement property were coyote, deer and other wildlife sign, a new beaver dam that will increase biodiversity, and rare plants.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** The MOU is a document that will be used among the NCC, potential partners, landowners, and/or easement holders. Revisions proposed by the BOS and the Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale, were discussed. Members read through all revisions to the Conservation Fund and the RSAs that pertain to expenditures of said Conservation Fund (RSA 36-A, 1988 warrant article #39), to ensure that proper procedures and language are captured in MOU. Demeritt will revise and email to NCC and Mr. Sterndale for final revision.

**Correspondence/ Notifications:**

- **Intent to Cut:** Map 2, Lot 1, 15 acres, Comte property, 16 cords of cordwood, filed 11/18/14.
- **Intent to Cut:** Map 43, Lot 55-1 & 55-2; Map 44, Lots 2, 13, 14, Mooney property, cutting 40 acres pulpwood, 30 tons spruce and fir, 180 tons hardwood and aspen, 180 tons pine, 60 tons hemlock. Whole tree chips- 400 tons.
- **Notice of Incomplete Permit by Notification** form for Tax Map 63, Lot 13.
- **Letter from USDA** on Merriam Daggett property, working with NRCS, NH Fish and Game, and Trout Unlimited to introduce woody debris into areas of the North River for the improvement of stream quality and fish habitat.

**Review of Prior Minutes:**

Motion made by Cheryl Smith to defer minutes to the next meeting, seconded by Raelene Shippee Rice, all in favor; the motion passed.

**Four Generals' Greenway Workshop:**

Members discussed the need to dedicate an entire meeting for creating a visual for outreach, etc. Cheryl Smith will send out a doodle poll to schedule a workshop in January. The NCC will invite the public to attend.

**Lake Host Program:**

The NCC received a formal request from the PLIA Lake Host Program to fund \$4,000 out of the Town's Conservation Fund. Monies to support inspections of motor craft prior to entry into Pawtuckaway Lake by the Lake Host Program workers has been funded by grants, warrant articles at Town meeting, the general operating fund, and private

donations. Demeritt researched any precedence of using a town's Conservation Fund for general operating costs of similar programs like this in other NH municipalities, and also requested guidance from the NHACC. NHACC advised against it because the RSA that set up the Conservation Fund for municipalities was established to mitigate impacts of development on land, wildlife, water, recreation, etc. by setting aside lands to be conserved.

Discussion ensued on the benefits: NCC and Lake Host Program have some overlapping goals, is an outreach and stewardship/educational opportunity that involves students, and is a way to remain visible to the community where large-scale conservation projects often take years to complete.

Possible downsides: At this time and in the predictable future, more landowners want to put their land in conservation than there is money available in the Conservation Fund (note: the Fund does not currently have enough revenue to fulfill current project requests); the Fund would be supporting a project with operating costs that are larger than the general operating costs of the NCC; if residents don't have the opportunity to pledge support at Town Meeting each year to help pay for the project, the outreach aspect may be lost as to how valuable this program is for the health of the lake, for its residents and the rest of the community and region.

Members did not feel that there was enough information and precedence to make an educated vote at this time.

#### **Events/ Outreach:**

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways will hold their annual meeting on January 24, 2015, at the Hooksett Town Library. Ben Kilham who rehabilitates orphaned bears will be the featured guest speaker.

Kristen Lamb recommended holding an annual snowshoe walk, and a "Welcome to the Neighborhood" outreach program detailing conservation properties available to residents for recreation, wildlife and water protection, etc. She offered to partner with her work at the Center for Wildlife, in order to bring wild animal ambassadors to engage attendees.. All agreed and details will be determined by email.

#### **Projects:**

Project P2 was selected for \$10,000 in funding from the highly competitive Moose Plate program. This project encompasses a mix of land and habitat types, and is a substantial parcel.

Raelene Shippee Rice motioned to adjourn, and Cheryl Smith seconded. All votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Lamb

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on April 13, 2015.