

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:06 PM. Other members in attendance were Mary Colvard, Dallas Huggins, Debra Kimball, and Susan Mooney.

Guests were Scott Cole, Beals Associates, Colston Gove, and Brendan Quigley, Gove Environmental Services all three representing Joseph Falzone, applicant for Case # 24-002 SUB presently before the Planning Board; Drew Stevens, NH Turtle Rescue; and Holly Zirkle, resident.

Following the **Pledge of Allegiance** Demeritt announced that the site walk hosted by the Planning Board for Case #24-002 SUB will convene at 10:00 AM along Raymond Road in the location of Map 69, Lots 17 & 19 this coming Saturday 3-20, 2024.

Proposed Open Space Residential Development: At the behest of the Planning Board, Mr. Cole and Mr. Quigley were invited to present the plan for the proposed subdivision. Mr. Cole began the planned details. The two parcels contain approximately 90 acres in total. Proposed are sixteen (16) building lots of 30,000 ft² to 1.25 acres each. The remaining 68 acres will be placed into a protected open space as outlined by the Open Space Development (OSD) regulations. The roadway will be 1700 ft long and will terminate in a cul-de sac. The mandatory 75ft setback from the Pawtuckaway River, a NH Protected River, will be honored. A drainage pond will be constructed 130 ft from the river. Lots 3 and 4 will be closest to the river at a distance of 350 ft. Mr. Quigley presented an environmental review as it presently stands: There are steep slopes primarily on the south side of the roadway and also near the river. There are three (3) identified vernal pools, two (2) are near the river and the third is to the west of the road terminus bulb located at least 100 ft away.

Questions (Q) from members and responses (A) follow:

Q: Please review the culvert designs. A: One culvert will be a 10" pipe, "bottom-grade", the other will be an 18" pipe, "up-grade".

Q: Will they be amphibian friendly? The Commission suggests using a box culvert, open bottom design. A: There will be a concrete bottom for the larger 18" culvert for an impact of 600 ft², and an additional buffer impact of 1200 ft². There is a proposal to create a 2:1 side slope to reduce disturbance that a 3:1 slope would involve.

Q: Where is the location of the aquifer and drainage area relative to the development location? A: The aquifer zone is outside of Lot #1 and the parcel does not cross the drainage area.

Q: Will chemicals be used such as used for lawn care and pesticides? Q: Restrictions will be written into the HOA deeds.

Q: Who will be monitoring the Open Space? And how strong will the monitoring be? A: The HOA will enforce the deed restrictions.

Comment: Because of the Alteration of Terrain (ALT) process, additional agencies will be brought in to access the application and its location re: natural features. These agencies include the Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB), NH Fish and Game (NH F&G) and the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC).

Kimball recommended that the open space be posted to acknowledge its location.

Q: Were any invasive species located on the property? A: None were found.

Comments from Huggins:

Information from the Fish & Game's Wildlife Action Plan indicates that an endangered species in the USA and NH use a variety of habitats. They use all of the area outside of vernal pools. Upland habitat is necessary for this species' wellbeing.

She was concerned with the proposed reduction the high knoll by 20 feet at the top for the cul-de-sac.

She was concerned with runoff and possible flooding due to the footprints of the road and driveways and development of the lots.

She was concerned about road salt use and was informed that once the town accepted the road that would be up to the town. Additionally, the applicant was not including 100-year storm data in the application.

Colvard suggested that construction be timed so not to disturb turtle nesting season.

A final comment from the applicants asked for the Commission's approval to design 2:1 rather than 3:1 slopes so to reduce disturbance. Members agreed.

Mr. Cole, Mr. Gove, and Mr. Quigley left the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Other: Ms. Zirkle updated the Commission that she has just recontacted the conservation lawyer and Bear-Paw to move forward with her planned conservation Easement.

Other: Mr. Stevens spoke about the OSD plan and suggested that impacts can be direct and indirect. Indirect impacts, such as dogs and racoons "identified as subsidized predators", can be more substantial and detrimental for turtles. While species such as birds as a rule, reproduce quickly and thus recover, turtles do not have this advantage. Because turtles take many years to reach sexual maturity and live a long time, negative impact are long reaching and often irreversible. They are slow to recover, taking decades or centuries to do so, if so. Huggins noted that 40% of Blandings are located in the southeastern region of the state and that locally Pawtuckaway has a stable population. Mr. Stevens said that he would contact NH F&G to see if there would be interest in preserving the Raymond Road property.

Discussion followed about turtle friendly designed culverts.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenway: Demeritt announced that the Humes conservation easement has been finalized and signed.

Commission Meeting Date Rescheduled: Due to the Solar Eclipse event occurring on April 8, the posted scheduled meeting will be moved to April 1. The motion to reschedule was made by Mooney and seconded by Colvard. All five (5) votes were in favor. Mooney will contact the town administrator about this change and ask that it be posted for the public.

Trails Committee Report: Demeritt indicated that Tom Eid has done several trail walks this past month. The February 24 public walk for the identification of wildlife tracks and sign was held at the Terninko conservation area. There were over two (2) dozen attendees. Kristen Lamb narrated the walk and additional “sightings” were noted by Smith and Mr. Eid.

A public bird walk is scheduled for April 20. Kimball will be the lead. Location will be either Marston or Terninko, TBA.

The Booklet “Explore Nottingham” is in progress. Planned sections will include historical properties, the Square and notable cemeteries, Scenic Roads, the Four Generals Greenway vision, conservation easements and public trails.

Term Renewal of Commission Members: Terms that end in 2024 are those for Demeritt, Mooney and Colvard. It was moved by Huggins and seconded by Kimball to request that the Select Board reappoint said members for additional three (3) year terms. All five (5) votes were in favor. Also noted was that Kristen Lamb’s term might have ended in 2022. Open positions are continued as they were unless filled by the Select Board. Demeritt will look into this.

NH DOT Adopt a Highway: It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Kimball to renew the Commission’s participation in this program. All five (5) votes were in favor.

Correspondence:

- Dated 3-8-24. From Craig W. Day, Shoreland Wetland Bureau, DES, a Shoreland Impact Permit, #2023-03212, to Cindy A. Stevens Trust, for property located at 36 Whites Grove, Map 63, Lot 61, to impact 4787 ft² to demolish a three (3) bedroom structure and replace with a new residence including a patio, etc.

Minutes: The minutes of February 12, 2024 were reviewed and corrected. It was moved by Colvard and seconded by Kimball to approve these minutes as amended. All five (5) votes were in favor.

Announcement: Huggins announced that there a turtle presentation is planned at the library but the date is TBD. Additionally, “Big Night” amphibian migrations will soon occur. She has available signage for posting along sensitive road areas and will contact us when these events are anticipated.

Adjournment: It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Huggins to adjourn the meeting. All five (5) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on April 1, 2024.