

Chairperson Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. Other members present were Cheryl Smith, Paul Miliotis, Kristen Lamb, Debra Kimball, Susan Mooney, and Liz Kotowski, Alternate, who was seated for Raelene Shippee-Rice until she arrived. (Shippee-Rice arrived at 7:28 PM; Kotowski sat down.)

Guests were Mark West, Wetland Scientist, resident and former member of the Commission and Celia Abrams, resident and former member of the Commission. Dr. Dale Rice, resident, arrived at 7:28 PM.

**Wetland Applications:** Mr. West conducted a “primer” to Commission members about reading and interpreting wetland applications to the DES and provided a list of required materials to be included in these applications. He distributed a document titled “TABLE OF CONTENTS” that listed seven (7) features of wetland applications. (West was asked to provide this document digitally so the Commission can use this as a checklist when future applications are received.)

Following are notes recorded during this presentation:

Mr. West stated that DES asks “20 questions” for completeness. All applications that are received by the Select Board office, including standard dredge and fill applications, are to be copied to the Commission. The town clerk should be placing these copies into the Commission’s mailbox as soon as it is received. West suggested that since the Commission meets only once a month as a rule, that the Commission should ask DES immediately for a continuance of 40 days so to have the time to review the application. A minimum expedited application has a deadline of 30 days and the Commission’s signature is required. When the application is determined to “be complete” by DES, then the “75 day clock starts”.

Mr. West reviewed several past applications that illustrated wetland impacts. The Commission should and DES does ask for “need” and “alternatives” if there are other areas on the site that could “work” for wetland crossings, etc. Required documentation and statements should include information about when the wetland was delineated, what are the functions and values of the wetland, are there any rare species on the site and what are the proposed mitigation actions.

Discussion followed about concern for endangered and threatened species. Miliotis noted that the NH list is not up to date and it has been frustrating to communicate with the NH Natural Heritage Bureau and NH Fish and Game re: a species suspected of being on the property. Can the Commission request that an assessment survey be done prior to the development of a property?

(Note: John Terninko, resident, arrived at 8:12 PM.)

Mr. West has a basic tutorial about the functions and quality of wetlands, a "Wetland Evaluation", that he could provide to Commission members at a future meeting. He stated that wetlands and vernal pools are to be mapped and noted on a wetland application. The Commission can ask questions of the applicant, ask for clarification and inquire if Fish and Game have responded to a particular application. He also recommended that the Commission check with DES for "Fact Sheets".

Members thanked Mr. West for his assistance. He left the meeting at 8:22 PM.

**Conservation Easements:** Mr. John Terninko, resident, has been approved for a conservation easement (CE) in the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) for approximately 80 acres. He is interested in placing an additional piece of approximately fifteen (15) acres (Map 9, Lot 10) into a farm/agricultural conservation easement with the town of Nottingham. The parcel has approximately 500 feet of frontage along Case Road. Mr. Terninko would like to receive a compensation of \$50,000 for the loss in development value when the parcel is bound by the CE. Mr. Terninko also inquired about getting the CE language changed for the original CE parcel of 107 acres (Map 9, Lot 11) to remove public permission for hunting in that parcel. Of particular concern is that 30 of the 107 acres are being managed for New England Cottontail habitat, and hunting would be contrary to the purpose of this project. The original CE deed was reviewed; it states that the property owner can post that hunting and public access are not allowed during planting. Mr. Terninko was satisfied with the deed language as it was written. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Mooney to expend \$50,000 from the Conservation Fund for the 15+/- acres, owned by the John Terninko Trust, Map 9, Lot 10 along Case Road. All seven (7) votes were in favor.

Mr. Terninko and Ms. Abrams left the meeting at 8:48.

**Trail Mapping:** Continued discussion of this initiative was postponed until the next meeting.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of June 12, 2017 were reviewed and edited. It was moved by Kimball and seconded by Smith to accept the minutes as corrected. All seven (7) votes were in favor.

**Road Maintenance Concerns:** Lamb offered to draft a list of road maintenance concerns to ultimately be sent to the Planning Board and Select Board. Members compiled a list for Lamb to edit, and she will send out to members for review. (\* See below)

**Possible CE property:** Kotowski, in conversation with a resident, shared with members that a particular property along Stage Road that has frontage along the North River as well as other assets, might be a good parcel to protect with a CE. She will follow up with this inquiry.

\* Members returned to review the Road Maintenance Concerns list. Smith moved that the Commission provide an edited list for Demeritt to forward to the BOS, and other municipal groups. Kimball seconded the motion. All seven (7) votes were in favor.

Kotowski left at 9:15 PM.

**Workshop Fee Reimbursement:** It was moved by Smith and seconded by Shippee-Rice to reimburse Mooney \$60 for the workshop fee held on June 23, 2017, "Wetlands of the Pawtuckaway Region" hosted by Mark West. Five (5) votes were in favor; there was one (1) abstention.

Lamb left at 9:25 PM.

**Correspondence:**

**Intents to Cut:**

- Map 76, Lot 2, along Mountain Road, State of NH (Pawtuckaway State Park); of 4800 acres, to cut 100 acres. (Received 5-16-17)
- Mendum's Landing Association Conservation Easement property, the easement deed held by the town of Nottingham, along NH Route 4, of a total of 50.64 acres, to cut 45 acres. This is done in accordance with the Forestry Plan in place under the terms of the CE. The Mendum's Landing Association will be conducting a Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) on their CE properties for forest management. Properties are listed as Map 5-1, Lots 20 through 27 and Map 5-7, Lots 0 through 6. (No date noted)

**Other Business:**

- DOT Sponsor a Highway program, as of June 6, 2017, has moved its supply shed to a location in Northwood on Route 4. The Commission will now be picking up supplies at this location.
- Mooney will forward the Moose Plate Grant web link to members, so members can consider applying for a grant through that agency in the future.
- Kimball will look into purchasing a new concession tent for the Commission for Nottingham Day.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Mooney to adjourn. All five (5) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on August 14, 2017.