Conservation Commission Minutes

June 18, 2020

The Commission posted this meeting more than 24 hours prior to assembly. Members sat outside in front of the van Dame school observing social distancing measures and other recommended protocols due to the pandemic.

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 6:35 PM. Other members in attendance were Jon Rydberg, Debra Kimball and Susan Mooney. Guest was Celia Abrams, resident and member of the Nottingham Trails Committee (NTC).

The primary agenda item was to review and decide on an expenditure from the town's Conservation Fund to pay for the design of a Stewardship Plan for the William E. Kennard Forest; this Plan is necessary for the conservation easement deed holder, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG) land trust, in order to approve the design and permitted activities of a proposed public trail network. The 34 acre parcel is owned in fee by the Town of Nottingham.

Demeritt led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Announcements.

Ms. Abrams explained why the Stewardship Plan was requested by BPRG (see above). Bear-Paw recommended Ellen Snyder, Durham Land Stewardship Coordinator and consultant for Ibis Wildlife Consulting, be contacted for said Plan. Ms. Abrams contacted Ms. Snyder and, excluding a Forestry Management Plan component, a Stewardship Plan would cost between \$2000 and \$2500. Ms. Abrams will forward to the Commission the email from Ms. Snyder in which this quote was cited.

Rydberg presented a motion "to approve the expenditure of up to \$3000 from the Conservation Fund to pay for a Stewardship Plan developed by a third party, first choice Ibis Wildlife Consulting, for the William E. Kennard parcel".

The motion was seconded by Kimball. All four (4) votes were in the affirmative. Demeritt approved the suggestion from Ms. Abrams to ask Kelly Dalliere to record all documents related to this project into pdfs for the town records.

The Commission will hold a Public Hearing with the Select Board on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 7:00 PM to invite public comment and consider the release of monies from the Conservation Fund for this project.

All other business will be conducted at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission.

Mooney moved for adjournment, and the motion was seconded by Kimball. All four (4) votes were in favor, The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on July 13, 2020.