

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:09 PM. Other members present were Debra Kimball, Cheryl Smith, Susan Mooney, and Raelene Shippee-Rice, alternate. Jon Rydberg arrived at 7:16 PM. Guest was Celia Abrams, representing the Commission's Nottingham Trails Committee.

Following the pledge of allegiance, Demeritt seated Shippee-Rice for Kristen Lamb.

Announcements: There were none.

Nottingham Trails Committee: Abrams led the discussion: at the recent Committee meeting held on 7-2-20, two RFP's for the development of a Stewardship Plan for the town-owned William E. Kennard Forest were reviewed. Such a Plan is necessary for the easement holder, Bear-Paw Regional Greenway (BPRG), to determine a public trail system for the said property. Three agencies were contacted for this task: Rick Van de Poll, Ibis Wildlife Consulting and Chris Kane. The Kane RFP was received in time for the Commission meeting on the 13th. Members of the Commission reviewed the three applications. All were competitive; the Commission decided to award the contract to Ibis Consulting because of the recommendation received from BPRG. Applicants will be notified of this decision.

It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Shippee-Rice to award the contract to Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting, services costing \$2500, and deliverables received by the Commission by 11-1-20. Five (5) votes were in favor and one (1) was an abstention.

Further discussion concerned the extensive use of ATV's on the property. The parcel is contained within a large land block of 2600+/- acres, most of this block is undeveloped and is owned by one family.

Communication with one of these family members to suggest a rerouting of the ATV trails and a letter to BPRG (easement holder) to inform them about ATV use on the Kennard property were suggested.

Demeritt reported that he had not been able to find any signage prohibiting ATV traffic. He will also speak with BPRG members at the Land Protection Committee meeting the following week to ask what level of involvement they wish to have in this matter.

Demeritt and Mooney have taken the lead for coordinating some of the Marsh Woods tasks with the Public Works Department. Demeritt reported that he and Mooney met with Sean Mclean on 7-28-20 to discuss a parking area, placement of large stones at the trail head to discourage motorized vehicles, purchasing and erecting a gate for the Tasker entrance and the removal of asphalt from the Tasker site. All Tasker work must occur between November 1 and March 30 due to the area's sensitive habitat. An email that contains suggested gate designs will be resent to Mclean. Additionally, NRCS will pay for the gate if Mclean provides a document for them including directions for install that follows the manufacturer's directions.

The next Trails Committee is scheduled for August 6, at 6:30 PM, location TBD.

Abrams left at 7:44 PM.

Commission Reappointments: No information received from the Select Board at this time.

Potential Easements: Demeritt updated the Commission on the discussion re: the property known as Map 53, Lot 6-2. A ZOOM meeting was conducted with the property owner's daughter in-law, on 7-13-20. Other participants were Jeremy Lougee from SouthEast Land Trust (SELT), Demeritt and Mooney. A site walk was held on July 28 with Mr. Lougee, (SELT), Ken Ernstoff, a relative of the owner who lives in the region, and Mooney and Demeritt. After an hour, Ernstoff, Mooney and Demeritt left and Lougee stayed behind in order to thoroughly inspect the property. Following, Lougee communicated with all parties the high conservation values the property has. A future ZOOM meeting will be scheduled to discuss how to maximize the protection of the wildlife corridor as well as providing reimbursement to the property owner for his investment.

Conservation Fund: As of December 31, 2019, the Fund contains \$340,957. Monies added to the Fund in 2019 were \$86,832.

Highway Cleanup: Demeritt reported that he has had some difficulty contacting District 6, DOT. He has left a message but his call was not returned.

Cleanup is scheduled for July 21 at 8 AM. Participants volunteering at this time were Demeritt, Mooney, Shippee-Rice and Kimball.

River Signs: The river signs that had been stored at a resident's house were returned to the Commission. All were accounted for except the sign for Mile Brook. Mr. Mclean was asked if his crew could erect the signs for town roads (not state highways) and he agreed to do so. Mooney delivered the signs and a document indicating the locations of the crossings to the Town Highway Shed. She will also order a new sign for Mile Brook from Sundance Sign in Dover.

Demeritt has filled out an application and supporting permitting endorsements for Protected River signs for the North River. They are available through NH DES. A set of two signs, one for either side of the road will cost \$202.00. It is intended that they be placed at the Flutter Street location. In the future, another set could be ordered for the crossing just beyond Nottingham School.

BPRG Report: Demeritt stated that Rue Teel is a new part time hire as a Land Steward at Bear-Paw.

Minutes:

- The minutes of June 8, 2020 were reviewed and edited. Kimball moved to accept the June 8 minutes as edited. The motion was seconded by Rydberg. All six (6) votes were in favor.
- The minutes of June 18, 2020 were reviewed and edited. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to accept the June 18 minutes as edited. All six (6) votes were in favor.
- The minutes of June 22, 2020 were reviewed and edited. It was moved by Shippee-Rice and seconded by Rydberg to accept the June 22 minutes as edited. Five (5) were in favor, there was one (1) abstention.

Diberto Site Walk: The Planning Board scheduled a site walk on June 30 for a proposed 14 lot subdivision along Mitchell Road, Map 7, Lot 1N. Because there are two (2) proposed wetland impacts the Commission was invited to attend. Demeritt and Mooney participated along with four members of the Board. The site walk was hosted by Jim Hayden, Project Engineer, Berry Surveying and Engineering. All appeared to be in order. Mooney took minutes for the Planning Board and submitted the minutes to the Board for review and acceptance.

Outreach: Smith indicated to Commission members that there is an informational fact sheet and booklet from SELT that informs property owners and others about conservation easements. Smith will ask Lamb if she could inquire about posting these on the Town's Web site for the Commission.

Adjournment: It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to adjourn the meeting. All six (6) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney

These minutes were accepted as edited at the meeting held on August 10, 2020.