Conservation Commission Minutes

November 16, 2020

Per Executive Order 2020-17, the Nottingham Conservation Commission held a virtual meeting. The posted agenda provided meeting access information for members, guests and the public via the on-line or phone-in Zoom platform links.

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:15 PM. Additional members in attendance were Susan Mooney, Cheryl Smith, Debra Kimball and Jon Rydberg.

Announcements: Mooney stated that on November 18, the Planning Board would be reviewing final drafts of proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would provide a Stream Protection Ordinance for lower order streams that do not qualify for RSA 483-B and vernal pool no-disturb vegetative buffers.

Trails Committee (NTC) Report:

- The summary of the NTC meeting of 11-5-20 was given by Mooney. Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting, has completed the Stewardship Plan for the William E. Kennard Forest and has submitted the document to Bear-Paw Regional Greenways for approval. Money has been approved by the Commission and will be released from the Conservation Fund per the Select Board at a Public Hearing earlier this year to pay for this study.
- Signage for the trails on Kennard, Marsh Woods and the Terninko easements have been finalized by the NTC. The total sum is \$501.60. MOTION: It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to spend up to \$510.00 for this purchase. All five (5) votes were in favor.
- There will be a walk at the Kennard easement on Saturday, November 28 at 10:00 AM to walk the new trail design proposed by Ms. Snyder's Stewardship Plan. Celia Abrams will host. Participants will be required to wear masks.
- The TREX (free) bench made from recycled film plastic has been retrieved from the Recreation and Parks Department and stored for the winter. It will be placed at a town-owned easement property for public use in the new year.
- The Public Works Department has installed the gate at the Tasker portion of Marsh Woods. The gate will discourage public passage onto this portion during sensitive seasons for wildlife. The NTC also decided not to go forward with the asphalt removal at Tasker. To do so would be disruptive to the surrounding areas.

Bear-Paw (BPRG) Report:

- Demeritt indicated that BPRG had reviewed the Stewardship Plan for the William E. Forest and approved it. Mooney will contact Ms. Abrams and Ms. Snyder to send the bill for the document and will forward it to the Business Office for remittance.
- The Haunted Walk sponsored at the North River Preserve hosted approximately 40 children with their parents. \$350 in donations were received.

Lamprey River Watershed Association: Demeritt: No meeting was held this month.

Easement Monitoring Reports:

- Kimball Family Forest: Done by Breighan Gardner, NTC, on behalf of the Commission, with Christine Doyle, BPRG, on 9-14-20. All was satisfactory. Report on file.
- Mendum's Landing Association: Done by Demeritt, Mooney and Rydberg and son Greyson with Tom Daniels and Carol Smack, MLA, on 11-7-20. All was satisfactory. Report on file.

- Highlands Deed Restrictions, 19 properties. Done by Demeritt and Mooney on 11-9-20 & 11-10-20. Report not yet written.
- Friend Family: Done by Kimball and Mr. Abrams on 11-14-20. All was satisfactory. Kimball recommended that a survey be done to determine the west side boundary of the easement because the abutting lot was recently sold and developed. Smith recommended that two quotes be submitted for such survey.
- Terninko two easements. Demeritt will check with Ms. Abrams for monitoring status.

2021 Budget: Commission members reviewed the budget line by line and determined what probable expenses would be incurred next year. The proposed budget includes \$100 in dues to Southeast Land Trust, and increased funds for River Sign Maintenance, Trail Development, Equipment and Water Testing Supplies. Decreased funded items include Conferences/ Training, Mapping, Office Supplies, and milage. Other line items remain the same. Total for 2021 is \$2265, an increase of \$335 from 2020 and an increase in \$25 from the 2019 budget.

Smith will create the proposed budget spreadsheet including a narrative and provide to Demeritt for submittal to the Business Office.

Re: the monies in the 2020 budget, Kimball will check with Ms. Abrams to see if Ms. Snyder can provide us with a digital map of the Kennard trail system to be printed and posted on the kiosk at the entrance. (Note: Rydberg left the meeting at 8:06 PM.)

MOTION: It was moved by Smith and seconded by Mooney to spend up to \$400.00 for a Kennard trail map of appropriate size and materials for the kiosk. All four (4)votes were in favor.

MOTION: It was moved by Smith and seconded by Mooney to order another set of Protected River signs for the North River at a cost of \$202.00. All four (4) votes were in favor. Demeritt will assume this task.

Road Side Cleanup 152/156: The scheduled date is December 7, 2020, to begin at 8:30 AM.

Other: Mooney will check with the Business Office about transferring Easement Monitoring Reports into the Town's electronic file.

Correspondence: Correspondence was summarized by Demeritt. He will leave the communications in the Commission's mail box at the Town office Building for Mooney to retrieve.

- Dated 9-30-20 to Nottingham Municipal Clerk/ Con Com from Application Receipt Center, Land Resources Management, Water Division NHDES, re: Notice of Acceptance of Shoreland Permit Application, File Number 2020-02493 for property located at 88 Freeman Hall Road, Tax Map 14, Lot 5. DES accepted an application on 9-29-20 for the permit program. This letter requests a permit for impacts to ... shoreland (North River) and requires that the applicant notifies the (town) by certified mail and provides a completed and signed copy of the permit application
- Dated 10-23-20 ATTN Conservation Commission, to Ronald Zabloudil, 72 Stevens Hill Road from David Price, Compliance Specialist, Land Resources Management Program, NHDES, a Letter of Compliance for File #2019-03763, Tax Map 46, Lot 5-2. The letter noted that the "observations described in the NHDES letter dated May 26, 2020 have been corrected" ...(and) the enforcement file will be closed at this time.
- Dated 10-29-20 ATTN Conservation Commission, to Robin Comeau, 176 Stevens Hill Road from David Price, Compliance Specialist, Land Resources Management Program, NHDES, re: an inspection of the property located at 176 Stevens Hill Road, Tax Map 49, Lot 4, File # 2020-02408. "The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with RSA 482-A ... and applicable rules relative to construction of a driveway." A permit was not received by NHDES and it was determined that the driveway was constructed through a freshwater wetland and impacted 1444 sq. feet. To correct, by 11-3-20, submit a plan prepared by a NH certified wetland

scientist that includes a restoration plan. The Plan is to include seven (7) stated details and restoration shall only commence upon approval by NHDES.

- Received after postmark of 10-17-20. To Town of Nottingham, Conservation Commission, from Rockingham County Conservation District Conservation Easement, a Monitoring Report for the Blaisdell properties of 73 and 57+/- acres located on Stage Coach Road Nottingham. (No Tax Map/ Lot numbers were provided; property is located adjacent to Pawtuckaway State Park in the southern area of town). The Town of Nottingham has Executory Interest in the easement. The properties were monitored on 8-13-20 by Kelly Brooks. All was in order.
- <u>Supply Lines with the Source</u>, Fall 2020, a newsletter received from the NHDES Drinking Water & Ground Water Bureau. Feature article is "Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project Update"1. Other articles of interest include PFAS updates, more protective arsenic standards, and the 2020 drought.

Minutes: The minutes of October 19, 2020 were reviewed. MOTION: It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to accept the minutes as read. All four (4) votes were in favor.

Other: A communication was received that the Town's application for a grant identified as the Land Protection Transaction Program offered by Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership was denied. If awarded the grant would have provided 50% of the cost of an appraisal up to \$3500 with a 50% match from a local organization. The application was made on behalf of a current land protection project identified as P17-ACT #1 (E). There were many applicants and unfortunately Nottingham was not awarded the grant in this round.

MOTION to Adjourn: It was moved by Kimball and seconded by Smith to adjourn. All four (4) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on December 14, 2020.