

Members of the Commission met with the Select Board in Room #1 at 7:17 PM. Commission members present were Sam Demeritt, Chair, Deb Kimball, Vice Chair, Susan Mooney, Secretary, and Mary Colvard. Select Board members present were Donna Danis, Chair, John Morin, and Ben Bartlett. Also present at the table was John Scruton, Interim Town Administrator (TA).

The Commission had recently communicated with the Board and TA re: the annual conservation deed restriction monitoring task at the Highlands housing development. The Commission has assumed this responsibility on behalf of the town of Nottingham since 2010 on the 19 properties that have such restrictions on part of their parcels in order to protect the Little River watershed. The letter dated 10-21-22 stated that the Commission would be grateful to the Board if the Commission could be excused from this task and an alternate strategy be established. The formation of a home-owners association (HOA) was recommended. In addition, the letter noted that some alleged violations of these deed restrictions were not resolved even when they were communicated to the Board in the past. Accompanying the letter was a Table of Contents referencing 23 documents compiled from 2010 to 2022 that were also sent electronically to the TA office.

The Commission and Board discussed these points including possible legal action. The Board will consider the matter of annual monitoring in the future as well as the enforcement of the deed restrictions for these nineteen properties.

The Commission retired to Room #2 to conduct the regularly scheduled meeting.

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:42 PM. Guest was Roger Friedan, a resident who expressed an interest in the Commission.

Introductions were made and members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements: The “Haunted Hunt” hosted by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways that was held in the North River Preserve last month was well attended. Approximately eighteen youngsters and accompanying adults participated. Stations were located along the trail where the young folks were engaged in topics about nature. One person made an anonymous donation of \$500, a well appreciated gift for land conservation in the Bear-Paw region.

Demeritt attended the annual NH Association of Conservation Commissions that was held on Saturday, November 5 at Pembroke Academy. That post covid event was also well attended. Keynote speakers were Suzie Spikol, writer and naturalist at the Harris Center, and Jack Dalton, “Kid Conservationist”. Demeritt listed the topics of the 22 seminars scheduled during the day and the content of the three seminars he attended. He picked up some literature about Monarch butterfly waystations for creating and protecting monarch habitat that he will pass along to a local boy scout who is interested in doing such a project for his eagle scout badge. (MonarchWatch.org)

Trails Committee Report: Aldo Leopold benches are being assembled by committee members and will be sited along the trails at Marsh Woods, Kennard and Terninko properties. Committee minutes can be accessed on the Commission’s web page.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways: The Outreach Committee discussed the recent Educators Conference. Two “Forest Bathing” (forest therapy) events have been scheduled for November 25, one in Raymond, one in Strafford. Producing packets for new town residents in the area about Bear-Paw and other like organizations was discussed. Additionally, at the October committee meeting, a recap of Strategic Planning included working landscapes such as farms and forests. A review of Bear-Paw’s Mission Statement is scheduled for 2023.

Conservation Easement Monitoring Update: Demeritt and Dallas Huggins monitored the loop trail on the Terninko 107- acre easement on 11-3-22. All was in order; no easement deed irregularities were noted. (Of Interest: The Terninko and the Friend conservation easements were the first conservation easements in Nottingham and were established by the property owners without any financial compensation.)

Correspondence:

- All “Intent to Cuts”:
Map 23, Lot 2, Smoke Street. Of 350 acres, to cut 100 acres
Map 3, Lot 12-2, 84 Freeman Hall Road. Of 6.43 acres, to cut 5 acres
Map 3, Lot 12-1, 86 Freeman Hall Road. Of 6.64 acres, to cut 5 acres.
Map 3, Lot 2-2, Old Turnpike Road. Of 25 acres, to cut 3 acres.
Map 52, Lot 4-1, Deerfield Road. Of 96 acres, to cut 96 acres.
- *Bear-Paw Print*, Fall Edition.
- *SELT* magazine, Fall Edition. Feature article - Capron Conservation Easement.
<https://77050748.flowpaper.com/seltunderstory2022/#page=1>
- Dated 11-12-22, a communication to Carl Spang, Lamprey River Watershed Association (LRWA), from Joseph Foley, Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) that the Nottingham Conservation Commission be included in the dialogue re: Kubota Trust’s “permanent snowmobile racetrack” and the potential for pollution. DES has visited the site, located at 214 Raymond Road, and the Board of Selectmen has been contacted. Stated was that this appears to be “a legal and local zoning issue”. Mr. Foley also indicated that the LRAC was seeking a grant to pay for a hydrogeologic study of this area as well.

It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Colvard to support a request by the LRAC for a hydrogeologic grant for the area potentially impacted by the snowmobile races. All four (4) votes were in favor.

Minutes: The meeting minutes of October 17, 2022 were reviewed and edited. It was moved by Colvard and seconded by Kimball to accept the minutes of October 17, 2022, as amended. All four (4) votes were in favor.

Adjournment: It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Kimball to adjourn. All four (4) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as read at the meeting held on December 12, 2022.