

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Other members in attendance were Cheryl Smith, Dallas Huggins, Debra Kimball, and Susan Mooney.

Two guests were present who wished to be anonymous.

**Introductions** were made and the **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

**Announcements:** Demeritt stated that the Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG) Annual Meeting will be scheduled for either March 18 or 25 at Coe-Brown Academy in Northwood. There will be a virtual broadcast provided as well.

The NH Farm and Forest Expo will be held at the Deerfield Fair Grounds on May 5 and 6.

Bear-Paw will be renewing its Land Trust Alliance and Accreditation status.

A celebration for volunteers and a goodbye party for Rue Teal will be held on Thursday, January 12, at the Northwood brewery.

**Conservation Easements:** The guests wished to discuss a potential conservation easement property that they have been considering. They wished to inquire about the conservation value of the parcel and if there might be financial assistance from the town to conserve this area. The guests were reassured on all points. Demeritt will contact Bear-Paw Regional Greenways Land Protection Committee of this potential project now identified by the Commission as P22-POT#1 (S), CE.

The guests left the meeting at 7:32 PM.

**Monitoring Reports:** Eight (8) annual monitoring reports have been received from the agencies who hold conservation easement deeds for parcels located in Nottingham. All reports were satisfactory. They are as follows:

- From Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) for Brook Crossing located along Old NH Turnpike (Route 4). A total of 53.33 acres. Monitoring was done on 4-5-22. Submitted by Grace McEachern, Conservation Technician.
- From RCCD for a Blaisdell parcel. A total of 73 acres. Monitoring was by aerial imaging on 4-5-22. Submitted on 12-29-22 by Grace McEachern, Conservation Technician.
- From RCCD for a Blaisdell parcel. A total of 57+/- acres. Monitoring was done by aerial imaging on 4-5-22. Submitted on 12-29-22 by Grace McEachern, Conservation Technician.
- From BPRG for the Bacon easement located at 185 Raymond Road (Route 156). Approximately 50 +/- acres. Inspection by Mark West accompanied by Melissa Bacon on 11-17-22.
- From BPRG for the Comte easement located at 13 Nielson Road. Approximately 130+/- acres. Inspection by Mark West accompanied by Tyler Comte on 11-5-22.
- From BPRG for the Shippee-Rice easement located at 38 Garland Road. Approximately 12+/- acres. Inspection by Chris Doyle, et. al. on 10-12-22.
- From BPRG for the William E. Kennard easement located on Kennard Road. A total of 34.2 acres. Inspection by Chris Doyle, et.al. on 6-15-22.

- From Southeast Land Trust (SELT) for the Applehurst Farm easement extending from Epping into Nottingham in the Kennard Hill land block. Approximately 200+/- acres. Submitted on 12-23-22 by Mrs. Amanda Ellms, SELT Staff.

Note: The Kimball Family Forest monitoring is pending.

**Annual Report:** The Commission's 2022 Annual Report for the Nottingham 2022 Town Report was reviewed and edited. Final copy will be submitted for publication.

**NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC):** Dues for the NHACC for 2023 remains outstanding. It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Smith to renew the Commission's membership for the NHACC at \$325. All five (5) votes were in favor.

**Correspondence:**

- "Intent to Cut": On Deerfield Road, Map 52, Lot 4-2. Of 117 acres, to cut 60.
- Dated 12-5-22, from Alexander Feuti, Wetlands Bureau, DES, Case # 2022-03311, to David A. Ayer, 14 Perry Lane, Weston MA for 92 Barderry Lane, Map 60, Lot 2, an "Accepted Shoreland Permit by Notification". Project not described.
- Dated 12-7-22, From Land Resources Management, DES, a "Reported Alleged Violation" at 7 Barrington Road, Map 1, Lot 13, to Mary Ellen Silverio, 149 Brookfield Road, Brimfield MA, Case # 2022-02866. A second dock has been installed without a permit. Please respond within 20 days. The case has been added to the inspection list.
- Dated 12-12-22, from Melissa F. Rusinski, Application Receipt Center, Wetlands Bureau, DES, to Nottingham Municipal Clerk for property located on Stevens Hill Road, Map 46, Lot 7, Case # 2022-03359. A notice that a "Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application" had been received.
- The same letter as above was sent to John (sic) Falzone, 2B Emery Lane, Stratham NH. NOTE: This copy consisted of only one page and noted (b)(3) to (g). Missing page 2?
- Dated 12-15-22, from Richard Erausquin, Notification Specialist, Wetlands Bureau, DES, to John Fernald, 16 Deerfield Road, a "Forestry Statutory Permit-by-Notification", Case #2022-03384. Eight (8) project conditions were listed.

**Minutes:** The minutes of December 12, 2022 were reviewed and edited. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Huggins to accept the December 12, 2022 minutes as edited. All five (5) votes were in favor.

**River Water testing:** Kimball reported that there might be some functional problem with the Dissolved Oxygen meter. Several readings taken over the summer sampling season were "Blue Marked" because these readings were below the acceptable range as noted by the Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP). A saturation level of 75% and above is acceptable. Some of the readings at different sampling sites and on different dates were 43%, 45%, 59%, 67%, and two at 71%. A significant drought over the sampling season might be a possible explanation. Kimball will check with the VRAP team in Concord to check the integrity of the meter.

**Nottingham Newsletter Article:** Tom Eid, Trails Committee with write up a draft article for the next issue. He will include two hosted tentative events: a Vernal Equinox walk at Marston Farm

on March 18 or 19 (the equinox is at 5:54 PM on March 20.) and an activity on April 22 to celebrate Earth Day. Amphibian Big Night will also be included in the article. Huggins will assist with this topic.

**Native Turtles:** Huggins indicated that she would like to repeat last year's library presentation to remind residents about turtle migrations starting in the spring. She will plan to schedule with the Blaisdell Memorial Library staff for an available date and time.

**Bait Boxes:** Huggins has contacted the Town Business Office re: her concerns with the bait boxes placed outside the building to kill rodents. The poison is very toxic and if a treated rodent is caught or scavenged by a pet or predator such as an owl, hawk, raven, or fox, it too will die. She contacted the Select Board a week before this Commission meeting but has received no reply. Huggins indicated that there are other alternatives available that do not harm other animals. Other members of the Commission encouraged Huggins to pursue this issue with the Select Board.

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Smith to adjourn. All five votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as read at the meeting held on February 13, 2023.