

Chair Sam Demeritt called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. Other members in attendance were Mary Colvard, Cheryl Smith, Debra Kimball, and Susan Mooney.

Announcements: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Demeritt made the following announcements:

- NH Fish and Game (NHF&G) will host “Discover Wild New Hampshire” to be held on April 16, 10 AM to 3 PM at the NHF&G office on Hazen Drive in Concord. This family event is sponsored by Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH. Additional information can be found at <https://nhwildlifeheritage.org/discover-wild-nh-day/>
- Ms. Celia Abrams, Ms. Ellen Snyder and Demeritt walked the Terninko parcels known as map 9, Lot 10 and Map 9, Lot 11, for the development of stewardship plans by Ms. Snyder.

Note: At 7:14 PM Mr. Chris Sterndale, Town Administrator, requested that the Commission in its deliberations re: Warrant Articles 16 and 23 that address the Mulligan Forest debt, compose for the Select Board a letter of decision to also include the considerations leading to the Commission’s decision. Mr. Sterndale left at 7:18 PM.

Other Updates and Outreach: Mooney spoke with a party interested in Warrant Article #18, which failed to pass at Town Vote. This party is in discussion with Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG) to place the bulk of their property into conservation easement. Mooney suggested that in their discussions with BPRG that the restrictive language in the conservation easement deed be specific and robust so to reassure the landowners that the easement property would never be used for activities adverse to the protection of natural resources.

Following was a discussion about outreach to again educate the public what is a conservation easement (CE)? Are CE properties owned by the town? Do CE properties pay taxes? It was decided that a submission to the town’s Community Newsletter, “Conservation Easements 101” would be timely.

Mooney contacted the owners of property identified as P-17 as to the results of Article #22 which did not pass. This Article would have capped the Conservation Fund and would have meant not being able to move ahead with P-17, nor with other current and future easement projects.

Trails Committee Report: The Trails Committee (NTC) met March 10, 2022. Lumber for Aldo Leopold benches for the public trail systems have been purchased and will be built in the spring. April 22, Earth Day, was chosen for a trail spring cleanup day for Kennard Forest, Marsh Woods and Marston. Tom Eid has offered to design an interpretive trail guide for Marsh Woods and will present his first draft at the next NTC meeting on April 7.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways: Demeritt reported out from the Outreach and Educational Committee. The BPRG Spring newsletter will be mailed out in early April. The feature topics will be Watersheds and CE Lands. Biothons are planned for June 4 in Deerfield and on June 11 in Strafford. From the Land Protection and Stewardship Committee there was a proposal to create a Forestry Management Plan for all BPRG properties. Demeritt reviewed and noted progress made for the current BPRG easement projects.

Correspondence:

- Dated 2-15-22, from David Price, East Region Supervisor, Water Division, DES, to Richard and Maureen Morrissey, 41 Lake View Drive, re: a possible complaint that a dock was constructed without the required permits on property identified as Map 71, Lot 48 located at 15 Lookout Point. The letter requests a response within 20 days.
- Dated 2-14-22, from Peter J. Conti, Shoreland/Shoreline Specialist Wetlands Bureau, DES, to Thelma Stock, 15 Barrington Road DES File #2022-00278, Map 1, Lot 9a Wetlands permit by Notification (PIN) as “administratively incomplete”. Several required items were missing from the application. Please respond within 20 days.
- Dated 2-18-22, from Richard G. Erasquin, Notification Specialist, Wetlands Bureau, DES, to Southeast Land Trust of NH, a Forestry Statutory Notification (PBN), file # 2022-00379 for property identified as Map 59, Lot 1, a letter that stated the application for the above permit was approved; there were eight (8) required conditions noted.
- Received from Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP), their annual report. The feature article was “Eelgrass Restoration in Great Bay Estuary”.

Minutes:

- The minutes of February 14, 2022 were reviewed. No edits were suggested. Kimball moved to accept these minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Smith. All five (5) votes were in the affirmative.
- The February 28, 2022, Notice of Public Decision was reviewed. There were no edits. Smith moved to accept this document as read. The motion was seconded by Colvard. All five (5) votes were in favor.

Other: Following was a discussion about the Conservation Fund and how to best balance present and future projects and also to provide monetary assistance toward the Mulligan Forest debt. The conversation will continue at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

Adjournment: It was moved by Kimball and seconded by Mooney to adjourn the meeting. All five (5) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary.

These minutes were approved as corrected at the meeting held on 4-11-22.