

Note: The March meeting was originally scheduled for March 13, but due to the forecast prediction of inclement weather, the meeting was rescheduled to the following Monday, March 20.

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:08 PM. Other members in attendance were Cheryl Smith, Debra Kimball, and Susan Mooney.

Guests were Frank and Mary Gonsalves, residents and Kevin Lumencello, resident.

Following the **Pledge of Allegiance**, the following **Announcement** was made: Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG) will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 25. Registration starts at 8:30 AM; the BPRG meeting commences at 9 AM during which the year in review is summarized and election of officers is held. Following the meeting, the Guest Speaker, Kevin Martin, boatbuilder, will present "Big Trees of NH". At 11 AM, a guided walk for interested participants is planned at Northwood Meadows State Park.

Subdivision Plans for the Commission to review at the request of the Planning Board: The documents were not available at this time. A request to the Board to remind the applicant to provide the plans will be made.

Climate Change Workshop: No further information has been received about this program.

Winter Use of Road Salt: Guests Mr. and Mrs. Gonsalves and Mr. Lumencello were invited to express their concerns. These residents live on West Lane in the Kelsey Road area that contains a sizable stratified drift aquifer. The only town regulation to protect aquifers in town is that all new house lots shall be no less than three (3) acres. Mr. Gonsalves related some of his observations to the Commission: In 2022 there were 81 salting runs on West Lane (with a 5% slope at the most), a dead end road that connects with Kelsey Road; for the first storm this winter, there were nine (9) salt truck applications and the spreader throws salt six (6) feet beyond the edge of the road; they have a shallow dug well and the most recent salt analysis showed elevated salt levels, although the level has not reached the threshold for contamination. The Gonsalves met with the Select Board on February 24 to present their concerns and to provide literature and data re: this issue. Mr. Gonsalves distributed copies of these documents to the Commission members. He noted that there were 1400 tons of salt purchased in 2021 to treat 45 miles of paved town roads; this quantity would translate to eight (8) pounds per linear foot of paved roads and parking lots.

Demeritt and Mooney stated that they had met with the Director of Public Works and the Interim Town Administrator on 2-27-23 to discuss, among other things, road salt use in aquifer zones with the possibility of reducing salt application amounts in these areas. Both gentlemen were agreeable to this suggestion as long as the slope of the road was not significant enough to compromise fire and safety vehicular passage. These areas will be posted so drivers will be aware and drive with additional care.

The guests thanked the Commission members for their attention and concern about this matter.

Trails Committee (NTC) Report: The NTC met on 3-19-23. In the absence of a Chairperson Tom Eid was elected to act as interim Chair. The last meeting was held in December 2022 when the Committee decided to postpone the first 2023 meeting to March. Topics discussed were updates of the construction and placements of the Aldo Leopold benches in the trail system, and the announcement that the trail map has been posted at the Marston Farm kiosk. Rather than contracting SRPC to design

and produce a trails map for Marsh Woods, a less expensive alternative was discussed. Several members have walked the trails and cleared debris from the winter storms. There are two laws in NH, RSA 508:14 and 212:34 that protect towns from liability due to accidents incurred by the public while they are in town owned, by fee or by conservation interest, properties. There are at least two large trees that have fallen across trails and the consensus was to divert the trail around these hazards. Cleanup and trail diversions will be discussion topics at the April meeting. Eid proposed that every year the NTC hosts two solstice hikes for the public. Sam Demeritt arrived at the meeting and at that time Tom Eid was nominated and elected Co-Chair of the Committee.

Rodent Bait Boxes: Dallas Huggins and Kristen Lamb met with the Select Board on 2-27-23. They presented information that the rodenticide in the bait boxes placed around the community center building also kills owls, hawks, fox, skunks, and other carnivores and omnivores including pets and their young when they eat poisoned rodents. The Board members charged The Commission to provide alternative strategies to deal with this issue and provide an action plan to the Board.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways: The conservation easement project, identified as P21-ACT (H), CE, located in Nottingham continues to progress at this time. There are eight (8) active projects in the Bear-Paw area.

Correspondence:

- Received from NHDOT, a contract application for the Adopt a Highway program for 2023/24. It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Smith that the Commission continue to participate in this program. All four (4) votes were in favor.
- Received from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, a membership renewal. There is \$100 in the budget to pay for membership.
- Dated 2-22-23. From Joseph Foley, Chair, Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) to Ridge Mauck, NH DES comments re: Electric Transmission Project #307 that involves several towns. Wetland permits and other documents have not yet been received by the LRAC and will be reviewed. Noted that previously proposed restorations were not done properly during past projects. Smith suggested that a letter of support from the Commission be sent to both parties re: this proposed project and previous ones.
- Received 3-7-23, a Statutory Permit-by-Notification, File # 2023-00415, to Terry Bonser, 24 Smoke Street for timber harvest approval in the area of Map 23, Lot 2, from Ryan Richardson, NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources. The permit lists eight (8) standard conditions for then proposed timber cut.
- Received 3-7-23, to Andrea and Thomas Kingston, a Shoreland Impact Permit, File # 2022-02321, for property identified as Map 64, Lot 48, 14 Whites Grove Road. The permit acknowledges a proposed impact of 874 ft.sq. of protected shoreland for the construction and reconstruction of a wall, to regrade a slope and to construct a swale. The permit lists four (4) Project Specific Conditions and five (5) Standard Project Conditions.
- Received 2-14-23, a transmitted letter and supporting documents to the Nottingham Town Clerk from Jones and Beach re: proposed work at 63 Lake View Drive, Map 71, Lot 38. The project involves moving a building 8.67 ft back from the shoreline, reconstruction if an existing building and reducing the impervious area around the main residence by 325 ft.

Signage for Conservation Easement (CE) Areas: Voss Signs was contacted to make and ship 250 additional easement marker medallions for the Commission. Voss Signs has our template design on file.

The medallions will be used for a current development project on Stevens Hill Road to indicate the boundaries of the CE property and for replacement of medallions when properties are annually monitored, and for future CE projects. The order was approved and placed. Payment was made with a personal credit card. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to reimburse Susan Mooney \$345.00 for this purchase. All four (4) votes were in favor.

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of 2-13-23 were reviewed and edited. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to accept said minutes as amended. All four (4) votes were in favor.

Commission Term Expirations: Appointments to the Commission are made by the Select Board per RSA 36-A:3. Terms for three (3) Commission members expire in 2023. It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Smith to recommend to the Select Board that Cheryl Smith, Debra Kimball, and Susan Mooney be appointed to three (3) year memberships to expire in 2026. All four (4) votes were in favor.

Other: The Commission discussed Shippee-Rice's proposals re: a town-wide clean-up, recycling of plastic waste, well water testing and a presentation for the public about reducing plastic use. The town-wide clean-up is being organized by the recreation department this year, and the Trails Committee will be doing 2 days of clean up on April 15th and April 22nd. Water testing and the issue of plastic waste can be addressed at subsequent meetings.

Adjournment: It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to adjourn. All four votes (4) were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were approved as read/corrected at the meeting held on April 10, 2023.