



NOTICE OF DECISION OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Conservation Commission held a public hearing per RSA 36-A:5 II at the Nottingham Community Center, 139 Stage Road, Nottingham, NH, on January 24, 2022, at 7:00 PM in Conference Room #1,

The hearing was noticed as directed by RSA 675:7. The subject was to invite comment from members of the public and Select Board in consideration of expenditures from the Town's Conservation Fund to assist in a Conservation Easement project previously identified as P-20-ACT #4.

Sam Demeritt opened the hearing at 7:05 PM. Other Commission members in attendance were Debra Kimball, Vice Chair; Susan Mooney, Secretary; Cheryl Smith; Raelene Shippee-Rice, Alternate, seated for Kristen Lamb.

Also present were Stephen and Rhoda Capron, owners of property located at 311 Stage Road, Tax Map 18, Lot 19; Jeremy Lougee, Southeast Land Trust (SELT), representing the Caprons; and approximately a dozen residents in attendance for the hearing.

Mr. Lougee described the easement project to the Board and other attendees. The appraisal was done by McManus & Nault Appraisal Company, Inc. In short, the loss in property value with a conservation easement that prevents subdivision and other activities determined detrimental to the protection of natural resources was \$204,000. The 29 +/- acres to be included in the easement harbors the highest quality farming soils in the state of NH, (a glacial deposit known as a drumlin).

The Caprons indicated they would "gift" the difference so that the next owners would be able to afford the property to farm their land.

The Commission had previously voted to dedicate up to \$130,000 for this project, \$75,000 to reimburse the Caprons some of the loss in value. During the hearing the Commission voted unanimously to approve an additional amount from the town's Fund so to split the loss in land value with the Caprons. Including the administrative expenses to create the easement and secure monitoring for the future, the total expenditure from the Fund was increased to "up to \$155,000".

All audience attendees who spoke were in favor of the easement and fiduciary support from the town, citing the Capron's long residency in Nottingham, their dedication to the community, and the continued protection of wildlife habitat and the watershed.

The hearing was closed at 7:25 PM. The Select Board approved the release of funds.

Respectfully submitted: Susan P. Mooney, Secretary