

**Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
February 9, 2015**

6:30 PM Chair Carpenter opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mark Carpenter, Mary Bonser

Absent: Donna Danis

Others: Chris Sterndale – Town Administrator, Dawn Wirkkala – Secretary, Susan Mooney, Sam Demeritt, Troy Brown, Thomas Howe, Johan Kerkhove, Duane Hyde, Terry Bonser, Debra Kimball

MANIFEST SIGNATURE:

Motion: by Ms. Bonser, second by Chair Carpenter to approve the February 9, 2015 manifest.

Vote: 2 – 0 in favor.

OUTSTANDING MINUTES: Chair Carpenter postponed the approval of minutes to the next meeting.

Town Administrator/Department Reports, Mail/Correspondence and Signature Items:

Highway: Mr. Sterndale reported the highway crews are working hard to keep up with the amount of snow that has been received. Chair Carpenter requested that everyone be patient and kind while waiting for the plows to get to you, the highway crew is working as fast as they can. Mr. Sterndale reported all available vehicles are on the road, but staff is required to stop and take rests after so many hours of driving; all drivers are working at capacity.

Board of Selectmen Department/Board/Committee Reports:

Planning Board: Nothing to report, Paul Colby has started work on upcoming zoning changes that will be reviewed by the board at some point in 2015.

CIP: Ms. Bonser stated the spreadsheets are the primary details/information needed for the Town Report; the actual full report isn't needed until later. Chair Carpenter requested both Ms. Bonser and Ms. Danis respond back to Mr. Sterndale no later than tomorrow with his recommended changes and questions.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: The Board entered non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(d)

6:45 PM Motion: by Chair Carpenter, second by Ms. Bonser to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(d).

Roll Call Vote: Bonser – Yea, Carpenter – Yea 2 – 0 in favor.

6:59 PM Motion: Ms. Bonser, second by Chair Carpenter to exit the non-public session.

Vote: 2 – 0 in favor.

Motion: Ms. Bonser, second Chair Carpenter to seal the non-public minutes of February 9, 2015.

Roll Call Vote: Bonser – Yea, Carpenter – Yea 2 – 0 in favor.

The Selectmen made no decisions during their non-public session and stated they would hold a workshop on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 8:30 am.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 pm: Robert Prieto/Alt. Trustee of Trust Fund Nominee: the meeting was postponed.

7:00 pm: Conservation Commission Hearing – Raymond Road/Ledge Farm Road Wildlife

Study Approval: Chair Carpenter turned the meeting over to Mr. Demeritt who opened the hearing.

Mr. Demeritt reviewed the purpose of the hearing, which is to expend \$1,500.00 from the Conservation Fund to work with the Southeast Land Trust and pay for a wildlife study on the

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proposed conservation easement on the Harvey property located near Raymond Road and Ledge Farm Road, identified as Maps/Lots 64/1A, 65/3, 66/3 and 66/4.

Mr. Hyde reviewed the plans for the proposed easement and the actions being completed by the other towns to raise funds for the easement. There is an agreement between SELT and the property owner, giving SELT time to raise the funds for the cost of the easement. An important part of this easement is to create posted trails on the property. This easement is the largest LCHIP grant received for the year, the Town of Epping voted to move the warrant article forward to hopefully raise a total \$250,000.00 between town funds and Epping Conservation Funds, and Nottingham's contribution to the wildlife study makes them a partner in the process. All participation in moving the plans for the easement forward will also help SELT in trying to secure additional grant funding. The easement will be co-held with SELT and NH Fish and Game and Nottingham will hold an executory interest in the property.

A walk of the property will take place on February 28th on the Town of Epping French Road; interested parties should register on the SELT website.

Ms. Bonser asked if all parties involved will have an opportunity to weigh in on the easement plan and when SELT will receive the needed funds. Mr. Hyde responded the Town can be part of the negotiations, although work has moved forward to keep this easement model similar to existing SELT easement models and reported the funds will be received at the closing of the property.

Mr. Demeritt reviewed the estimated total amount of Conservation available, stating there are funds available for this project. The Selectmen requested an update of the Conservation Fund amount at the next quarterly meeting.

Mr. Demeritt asked will the Nottingham easement process continue if the Town of Epping funds aren't approved. Mr. Hyde stated this easement is an all or nothing plan for the owner, but if it doesn't go through this year there is another chance next year; there is a lot of project support.

Mr. Demeritt asked for public questions or comments; there were no public comments and Mr. Demeritt closed the public hearing. Mr. Demeritt stated the Conservation Commission previously voted to support the spending of the \$1,500.00 for the wildlife study.

Motion: by Chair Carpenter, second by Ms. Bonser to allow the Conservation Commission to spend \$1,500.00 for the Harvey property study, without further obligation by the town.

Vote: 2 – 0 in favor.

7:30 pm: Conservation Commission Fernald/SPNHF Information: Mr. Sterndale stated the public hearing on the Fernald Easement will take place Monday, February 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Howe, from Society of Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) reviewed the proposed easement on the Fernald property, which is located on Deerfield Road with frontage on Pawtuckaway Lake, and also abuts Pawtuckaway State Park. The property is approximately 95 acres with a purchase price of \$250,000.00. The public benefits are the 1000+/- feet of waterfront, including protection for water drainage from Miles Brook into Pawtuckaway Lake. The easement will permit public access, including parking areas, kiosks and public walking trails; similar to the Mulligan Forest plan.

Mr. Howe stated the \$250,000.00 payment from the Conservation Fund for the easement will permit the Town of Nottingham to hold a backup executory interest in the easement and will be able to take action if SPNHF fails to act on any part of the easement agreement, including taking over the easement.

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Mr. Sterndale reported the proposed easement has been reviewed by the town attorney indicating it appears to be a standard easement with standard restrictions.

Mr. Howe answered a question about the easement permitting hunting, and that the easement does not specifically mention hunting, but allows the property owner to decide permission for hunting. The property owner is currently going to allow hunting, but has the ability to restrict that action if it gets out of hand. Ms. Bonser felt it was a reasonable option.

A snow shoe walk of the property will take place on February 26th from 10 am to 1 pm. Please register with SPNHF if you plan to attend.

Chair Carpenter stated citizens can present their opinions or questions regarding the Fernald Easement and payment of \$250,000.00 from the Conservation Fund at the Monday, February 16, 2015 public hearing.

Ms. Bonser asked to confirm the different types of activities that would be allowed on the property with the easement. Mr. Howe stated pedestrian type of activities will be permitted; walking, hiking, snow shoeing, etc. No motorized activity is permitted. Anyone wanting to take action beyond pedestrian activities, including horseback riding, should contact the property owner. The easement is intended to be a working relationship between the Conservation Commission and the property owner.

The Selectmen will make a decision on their agreement of the easement at their February 23rd meeting. SPNHF and the Conservation Commission hope to close on the property the week of March 9th, the location will be determined.

The Selectmen stated their support for the easement purchase, reminding citizens they should attend the public hearing if they have any questions, concerns, or want to express their support.

The Selectmen stated they would let Mr. Howe's know if they need him to attend their meeting on February 23, 2015.

The Selectmen thanked everyone for attending.

General Business:

Ms. Bonser asked Mr. Howe about the best method to permanently conserve Pawtuckaway State Park. Mr. Howe recommended contacting the local legislature about the best method, feeling SPNHF might not be the best agency to try and move such an action forward...

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

8:04 PM Motion: by Chair Carpenter, second by Ms. Bonser to adjourn.

Vote: 2 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Wirkkala