

The meeting was opened at 7:00.

Present: Terry Bonser, alternate; Johan Kerhove, alternate; Cheryl Smith; Raelene Shippee- Rice; Kristen Lamb; Deb Kimball; and Chair Sam Demeritt. Bonser was seated for Susan Mooney and Kerhove was seated for Noel Carlson.

Guests were Duane Hyde and David Viale of SouthEast land Trust (SELT).

1. Easements:

SELT on P2: David Viale spoke to the group. He stated progress is being made on this property in the SE section of Nottingham. Two sources of funding secured—\$10,000 moose grant, NRCS money was secured; will submit another \$10,000 PREP grant by end of January,

Description: 170 forested acres, wetlands on property and open farmland, nice heavy wildlife component and diversity.

Size: approximately 200 acres.

Currently negotiating a price with the family to try to reduce or eliminate cost to town.

Timeline: sometime this summer.

SELT on P1, Harvey Forest Project. Duane Hyde spoke to group.

Size: 1100 acres total but 224 acres in Nottingham. The Harveys will remain owners of the property being put in conservation easement—all of the following are public uses for this property—trails for hiking, xc skiing, mountain biking, also used for snowmobiles in winter and hunters- that will continue.

The land trust will build trails and kiosks.

Features: Water frontage along the Pawtuckaway River. Habitat values are tremendous—federally endangered plant, state rare plant, and state endangered reptiles, least and American bittern, nesting broadwing hawk, wood duck, heron rookery, wood thrush.

Did a development analysis – could be 224 house lots – 50 of which would be in Nottingham—an easement would avoid such development.

Will have two hikes to see the property on January 24th and February 28th. 9 am both times. Sign up is on the website selt.org

Currently they are at 28% of funds needed for this property. \$400,000 grant LCHIP, Fish and Game \$300,000 grant, private monies raised also so far, but need \$3.1 million so they are seeking more funding from foundations. They do need commitments from Nottingham and Epping. Would like to see a commitment of \$63,000, although more funding would be appreciated. Town would have an executory interest in the town's part of the property, but would

not have to monitor this easement. A more pressing matter involves a big grant from NAWCA (North American Wildlife Conservation Act), a \$1 million dollar grant. In order to help them secure this grant they are requesting the NCC commit from the Conservation Fund, \$1500 toward due diligence such as appraisal of the natural resource assessment. SELT paid \$25,000 for an ecological inventory of this property—if we could put some funding towards this piece that would be helpful in applying for the NAWCA grant.

J. Kerkhove brought up the point that this project supports our strategic plan, is in the Four Generals' Greenway, and has exemplary and high value wildlife habitat of land conservation. K. Lamb mentioned \$1500 to try to get \$1 million grant is a great investment. Are any rare species in Nottingham—the reptiles are in Nottingham—as there is a huge wetlands complex there. Some breeding birds located there—black ducks, least bittern, and American bittern, broad winged hawk nesting, wood thrush, and 2 heron rookeries. This property is in the Four Generals' Greenway, and also helps to link Pawtuckaway State Park to the Great Bay.

Motion made by J. Kerkhove moved and R. Shippee- Rice seconded a motion to ask the selectman to authorize the expenditure of \$1500 from the Conservation Fund to use for the partnership contribution of support for the Harvey Forest Project –specifically to go towards the bird and habitat assessment and will show partnership support of SELT's \$1 million NAWCA grant. The Commission will request a public hearing for this to be held in February.

There will be a walk on this property on January 26th and February 28th both at 9 am. More information on the walk is at the SELT website. NCC members will try to make the February 28th walk.

2. Review previous minutes: S. Demeritt moved and C. Smith seconded the motion that we move the minutes' review to next month's meeting.

3. Bear-Paw info: S. Demeritt passed out a card for the Bear Paw Annual Meeting on January 24th from 9-1 at the Hooksett Public Library.

4. Four Generals' Greenway: find out if Strafford Regional Planning can do an overlay for us; will contact them about this.

5. Memorandum of Understanding: Discussion of MOU—K. Lamb will work the C. Stern version and add to that the RSA's. She will put the RSA's into this working document and share with C. Stern and the Commission members.

6. Other:

Wildlife Library Program with Kristen... Welcome to the neighbor hood – Introduction to Easements and Wildlife will be held on March 18 at 7pm.. We need to bring refreshments.

Spring bird walk: Sometime in May; which property to visit??? TBD

Information on the current projects list, the proposed conservation lands, was made by C. Smith. She is looking for additional information about these properties to put into a spread sheet that will help the public understand their high value for preserving these properties such as the number of proposed housing lots, is it in Four Generals' Greenway, etc.

An update for the Conservation Fund balance will be requested.

Update of Website with NCC information: A request was given to update our information six months ago and current members are not on there. Also questions on whether we could access the site to change things. Other conservation commissions have their own website like Barrington. Something to consider.

North River Reserve (Conservation Easement) has a new trail for the public.

D. Kimball moved to adjourn and C. Smith seconded. All votes were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:03.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Kimball, Vice Chairperson.

These minutes were accepted as amended at the meeting held on February 9, 2015.