

The Commission held a public hearing in Conference Room 1 for the expenditure of monies from the Town's Conservation Fund (CF) per RSA 36-A: 5 II for the Helen E. Fernald Trust Conservation Easement (CE) Project, P1.

(Note: Because this was a public holiday, unfortunately there was no opportunity to record the hearing so it could be broadcast to the public at a later date.)

Members in attendance were Sam Demeritt, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Deb Kimball, Susan Mooney, Cheryl Smith and Terry Bonser, alternate.

Guests were Mark Carpenter, Therese Thompson, Tracy Degnan (RCCD) *, Tom Howe (Forest Society), Liz Kotowski, Ed Kotowski, Marguerite Tucker, and Steve Soreff and Mary Bonser.

Chairperson Demeritt summarized the purpose of the hearing. The Fernald property is located on Deerfield Road and is identified as Tax Map 52, Lot 4-1. It is 95.5 acres in size. The value of the property for residential lots is appraised at \$560,000 dollars and the family is willing to sell the CE interest to the Forest Society for \$250,000 dollars, plus expenses. The Conservation Commission has previously voted to expend the sum of \$250,000 dollars from the town's Conservation Fund as a contribution to the Forest Society for this CE. The property has 960 feet of lake frontage on Pawtuckaway, 1827 feet on Deerfield Road, protects 1800 feet of Mile Brook as it courses through the parcel before emptying into the lake and abuts the 5410 acre Pawtuckaway State Park along the west side.

Chairperson Demeritt opened the meeting and public hearing at 7:07 and stated that the purpose of the hearing is to determine public support for this easement. Mr. Tom Howe of the Forest Society was invited to speak. Mr. Howe and the Forest Society are sponsoring the CE on behalf of the property owners. Mr. Howe again summarized the features of the parcel, its conservation values and easement purchase price that had been covered in the meeting with the Board of Selectmen the previous Monday. Guaranteed public access for passive pedestrian activities with the possible future development of trails, a parking area and a kiosk by the town are also provided for.

The following residents spoke in favor of the easement:

Liz Kotowski, lake resident (Indian Run Road) and member of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA) spoke in favor of the easement because it protects the water quality of the lake;

Ed Kotowski, lake resident (Indian Run Road), treasurer of PLIA stated that area of the lake has a loon nesting site and he, too was in favor of the easement;

Therese Thompson, lake resident (Barderry Lane) also spoke to support the easement;

Steve Soreff, (Dolloff Dam Road) called the lake “the jewel of the town”, and stated he supported the easement;

Peggy Tucker (Dolloff Dam Road) asked about additional funds required to complete the project. Mr. Howe stated that the Society hoped to raise \$21,000 dollars to cover remaining costs into include legal expenses, administrative costs and stewardship expenses.

Mark Carpenter, Selectman, offered to put this appeal on his company’s web site. Mr. Howe will send the appeal letter electronically. Mr. Carpenter also stated that he is the biggest fan in terms of impact on Nottingham versus forty (40) additional lots requiring town services and the impact of 40 septic systems on the lake.

There were no other questions or comments from those present.

Chair Demeritt closed the public hearing at 7:32 and thanked all for attending.

Raelene-Shippee Rice left at 7:33. Bonser was seated for Shippee-Rice.

All members of the audience left except Tracy Degnan from Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) *. Her appointment had been postponed from the previous Commission meeting.

Ms. Degnan was representing James and Waldron Haley, two brothers who own parcels that will be restored through a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Water Resources Project (WRP) federal conservation easement grant. She was seeking from the Commission two wetland permits to approve wetland crossings on the two parcels.

(Note: Mr. Howe left at 7:40. Mr. Carpenter left at 7:41.)

The parcels are located on Route 4. The parcel owned by James also fronts Warren Road. Forty (40) acres are in a NRCS/WRP CE. Only 6.55 acres are located in Nottingham, the large portion is in Barrington. It is identified as Tax Map 269, Lot 8. There is a PSNH power line easement through a large wetland. The restoration would impact 2280 Sq. Ft. Two crossings would be to replace failed culverts and a third crossing would be upgraded by adding compacted processed gravel. These improvements would provide necessary access for PSNH and would protect the wetlands against future damage.

Smith moved and Kimball seconded that the Commission (1) Waives its right to intervene per RSA 482-A: 11; (2.) Believes that the application and plans accurately represent the project and; (3.) Has no objection to the proposed work. All five (5) votes were in favor. Demeritt signed the copies of the application.

Kimball left at 7:55.

The Waldron Haley parcel is identified as Tax Map 6, Lot 22 of 12.54 acres and Tax Map 8, Lot 15-2 of 8.86 acres. There are three wetland crossings for a total impact of 1259 Sq. Ft. Crossing #1 will remove a failed culvert and replace with a stone ford; Crossing #2 will place a stone ford and ditch one side of a forestry trail; Crossing #3 will remove a failed culvert and clean out a ditch.

It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Bonser that the Commission (1) Waives its right to intervene per RSA 482-A: 11; (2.) Believes that the application and plans accurately represent the project and; (3.) Has no objection to the proposed work. All four (4) votes were in favor. Demeritt signed the copies of the application.

Members asked that Ms. Degnan send us copies of these easement parcels with details for our files.

Mooney moved and Smith seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All four (4) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary.

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on March 9, 2015.