

Chairperson Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:02. Other members in attendance were Raelene Shippee-Rice, Kristen Lamb, Susan Mooney, Terry Bonser, Alternate (7:05), Debra Kimball (7:06), Cheryl Smith (7:06), and Johan Kerkhove, Alternate (7:10). T. Bonser was seated in the vacant seat. Guests were Dr. Dale Rice and Mr. Joseph Falzone. Tom Howe, Forest Society, arrived at 7:26.

Maple Ridge NRCS Conservation Easement Application: Mr. Falzone met with the Commission to update the status of his application for a federal grant to place the 150 +/- acre Maple Ridge parcel into a permanent conservation easement, save one house lot. He stated that the Farm Bill has passed. In the past \$500,000,000 dollars was allotted for these programs under the Farm Bill but this year's allocation was cut in half to \$250,000,000 dollars. NH is supposed to receive approximately \$1.8 million dollars in the first round. NH is one of only seven states that can ask for additional money after the first round and monies are returned to the pool. His project will cost about \$1,000,000 dollars and does not expect to receive full funding on the first round. Mr. Falzone has owned the property since 2007, has carried a mortgage on the property and would like to see that it be placed in conservation rather than developed into house lots. The Commission and Mr. Falzone agreed that now is the time to contact the state conservationist, the NRCS representative in NH and other key people to assist in this project. The Commission will write a letter of support and Demeritt will ask Mark West, Wildlife biologist and Wetland Scientist who did the wildlife study on the property to write a letter of support as well. Members of the Commission, Mr. Falzone and Mr. West will meet with Sue Knight, NRCS Representative, in April. Demeritt will make the arrangements.

Mr. Falzone left at approximately 7:20.

Fernald Conservation Easement, P1: Lamb reported that the February 26 snowshoe hike was well attended. She and Tom Howe of the Forest Society led the outing and attendees were shown very old black gum trees in pocket wetlands, wildlife tracks belonging to snow shoe hare, otter slides and fisher. The property is open to the public and is easily accessible from Deerfield Road. The closing for the conservation easement is expected to be in early March.

An abutter to the easement property, Mike Kelly offered to help with the campaign to raise additional monies for administrative and closing costs for the Fernald easement. He and Mooney passed out maps and appeal letters at the Recycling Center on March 7 until we ran out. Other copies had been previously posted at various public places in the community. Demeritt will ask the Forest Society for an electronic copy of the appeal to pass on to Selectman Carpenter.

Tom Howe arrived and was invited to speak. He wished to get a signature for the final conservation easement deed, the 1992 Helen E. Fernald Trust, the

version dated January 28, 2015. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to accept the wording in the January 28, 2015 conservation easement deed. All seven votes were in favor. The motion passed. Demeritt signed the deed.

Mr. Howe left at 7:36.

Minutes:

- December 8, 2014. Mooney will rewrite the minutes and will be reviewed at the April meeting.
- February 9, 2015. These minutes were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Smith, seconded by Lamb; all seven votes were in favor.
- February 16, 2015. These minutes were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Kimball and seconded by Bonser; all seven votes were in favor.

Correspondence:

- Received from SouthEast Land Trust (SELT) a copy of the form that recognizes the Town of Nottingham as a partner for the Harvey conservation easement project for the \$1500 contribution from the Conservation Fund. The public hearing for this disbursement was held February 9, 2015.
- Dated 2/19; to the Town of Nottingham, Jeffrey and Diane Tasker and Samuel and Joan Christian, from David Price, East Region Wetlands Inspector, DES, Wetlands File # 2013-00483, the final monitoring report of the wetlands restoration site for the Town of Nottingham's gravel pit access road Map 10, Lot 3. The report stated that the deficiencies have been corrected related to wetland restoration.
- Dated 2/24, to Francis and Joanne Burke of Northwood, NH, from Craig W. day, DES Wetlands Bureau, for property located at 14 Sunrise Drive on North River Lake, Map 1, Lots 22, 23, & 27, Wetlands File # 2015-00266, a permit to impact 3044 sq. ft. to retain expanded work on a retaining wall from a previous permit granted in 2009, File # 2009-02145 for the reconstruction of a second floor and exterior deck with stairs. There were eight (8) project specific conditions and seven (7) general conditions.
- Dated 2/24; to Krista D. Brown re: DES returned Wetland Permit Application File # 2015-00417, previously reviewed by the Commission, to the applicant because no fee was enclosed.
- Announcement for the annual "Saving Special Places" conference will be held at John Stark Regional High School on April 10. Registration is \$60

per person prior to April 3. Conference fees are included in the Commission's annual budget.

- *Supply Lines to the Source*, a publication re: water quality and usage in the state.

Conservation Commission Library Program: On March 18, Demeritt and Lamb will co-host an outreach program at the Blaisdell Memorial Library from 6 to 8 PM. The program will feature easement properties in Nottingham that have public access, using PowerPoint photos and script. Lamb will also bring two native raptors from the Center for Wildlife where she works to introduce to the attendees. Members discussed details for the evening including refreshments, photos, projector availability, and the like.

Commission Membership: Two three-year appointments to the Commission expired this year. Demeritt asked to be recommended to the Board of Selectmen for reappointment for another term. Mooney so moved, seconded by Kimball and all seven (7) votes were in favor.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Mooney that Bonser be recommended to fill the vacant seat on the Commission. All seven (7) votes were in favor. Demeritt will send these recommendations to the BOS for their appointments. He will also check with the town clerk for the new appointments to sign the Volunteer Appointment Form.

By-Laws and Rules of Procedure: Mooney had a copy of Draft Three which included the edits recommended by members during the last review. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Lamb to accept the final draft of these By-Laws. All seven (7) votes were in favor. Mooney will have copies made for each member, the town clerk and the Selectmen's Office, and the Commission's files, all to be signed prior to distribution.

Other:

- Lamb recommended that there be an update on conservation projects that have not moved in the last couple of years.
- She also recommended that the Commission check with Bear-Paw re: placing the Kennard property into a conservation easement, now that there will be monies to do so in the Conservation Fund.
- Smith reported that she is continuing to work on the details of the spreadsheet re: conservation easement projects, past and in process.

- Smith said she had responded to a suggestion to core the black gum trees on the Fernald easement property to determine their ages. Smith recommended not coring the trees as the procedure could introduce pathogens.
- Kimball again suggested that we keep the mapping of easement properties at the top of our list.
- Mooney will contact Kyle Pimental of Strafford Regional Planning Commission re: an overlay map for the Four Generals' Greenway.

Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Shippee-Rice. All seven (7) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on April 13, 2015.