

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:08 PM. Other members in attendance were Kristen Lamb, Susan Mooney, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Terry Bonser, Debra Kimball and Johan Kerkhove, Alternate. Kerkhove was seated for Cheryl Smith. Guests were Dr. Dale Rice, Paul Miliotis, Dave Viale and Jeremy Lougee both from SouthEast Land Trust (SELT).

P2, Sweetser, Conservation Easement Project: Viale and Lougee updated the Commission members on the P2 project, now identified as the Sweetser project along Ledge Farm Road. There are 205+/- acres including 20 acres of open field of active farmland. The rest of the acreage is upland forest and lower wetlands. The parcel is contained within a large unfragmented parcel that extends into Epping and has been identified regionally by the NH Coastal Plan for Conservation and at the state level by the Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan. NRCS has approved a grant to purchase the development rights for 170+ acres. This portion of the project is scheduled to close by August 31. The remaining 30 acres has been approved for an NRCS Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) that restricts residential, commercial and industrial development as well as activities that would be detrimental to agricultural soils. Additional natural resource values protected by an ALE include scenic views, water resources and wildlife habitat. The total project cost for the 30-acre easement is \$320,156. Combined with the ALE grant for 50 percent appraised value, a grant from the Piscataqua Region Estuary Partnership (PREP), a NH Moose Plate Grant, prior appraisal support of \$2650 from Nottingham's Conservation Fund and a generous gift from the Sweetser Family, 82.5 percent of the total project costs of \$320,156 are funded. Nottingham has been asked to provide matching monies at 17.5 percent of the project costs, \$56,106, for the local support portion of the project. SELT hopes that this project to support the easement on the 30 acres will be completed by the end of the year.

Kimball recommended that there be a site walk scheduled to view the property. Viale will set that up.

Lamb will forward the MOU to SELT for their application request.

Demeritt indicated that the Commission would need to schedule a meeting on June 23 to discuss the Conservation Fund accounts, to precede a scheduled meeting with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) for a quarterly update on projects.

Demeritt called for a poll of Commission members to gauge support for the Sweetser Project, all seven (7) votes were in favor.

Lamb commented that Nottingham's commitment toward the total project of 205+ acres would be "a 5 percent commitment for 95 percent of value".

Correspondence:

- There was a packet of documents from DES re: culvert replacements in Nottingham. Four on Freeman Hall Road are over 30 years old; three on Lavoie Drive and one on Stevens Hill Road are over 40 years old, and all are in need of replacement by the Town's Highway Department. *
- May 18, 2015, from DES re: a previous "Letter of Deficiency" re: Mill Pond Dam dated 2-14-2006, was noted as corrected on 4-9-2015.
- A letter from NRCS that there will be a suspension of tree cutting until the end of August on grant properties that support habitat for the Long Eared Bat, a federally protected species.
- From Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, an invitation to attend a gathering at a Board member's home in Deerfield on June 20 from 7 to 9 PM.
- Approved May 9, 2015, a Shoreland Impact Permit for 22 Cahill Lane, Map 68, Lot 56, to Benjamin McMahon, Raymond, from Craig W. Day, DES, to impact 7330 sq. ft. to replace a cottage with a house and septic. There are thirteen (13) project specific conditions and seven (7) general conditions.
- Approved May 14, 2015, a Shoreland Impact permit for 46 Jampsas Trail to Krista D. Brown Revocable Trust and David "Troy" Brown II of 201 Raymond Road, Nottingham, to remove existing dock to install two (2) seasonal replacements of 6 X 30 feet, to relocate 23 rocks and to replenish two (2) beaches. The approval lists thirteen (13) project specific conditions and seven (7) general conditions.

* Lamb suggested that the Commission recommend that the town consider using the NH Fish and Game culvert design that supports passage of wildlife and will accommodate 100-year floods. A local surveyor uses these culverts for his recommended crossings. Lamb will look into obtaining the Fish and Game study so to have it when the Commission next meeting with the BOS.

Minutes of previous meetings: No minutes were available to review and are postponed until the next meeting.

Roadside Cleanup: Members will meet at 8:30 AM, June 23. Volunteers as of this evening are Mooney, Demeritt, Kimball, Shippee-Rice and Bonser.

Shippee-Rice will check with Epping about their recent town wide roadside cleanup.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways and Lamprey River Watershed Association Reports: There were none.

Alternate Member Recommendation: Mr. Miliotis indicated that he was interested in a position as an Alternate on the Commission. A motion was made by Shippee-Rice and seconded by Lamb to recommend Paul Miliotis as an Alternate on the Commission to the BOS. All seven (7) votes were in favor. Mr. Miliotis will bring his expertise of natural resource quantification of habitat health to the table. Demeritt will communicate to the BOS the Commission's recommendation for Miliotis' application as an alternate on the Commission.

Turtle Crossing Sign: Shippee-Rice noted that there is a folding (seasonal) DOT or NH Fish and Game Turtle Crossing sign on Ash Swamp Road off Route 152 in Newmarket. Discussion followed that there are several sensitive locations in Nottingham where such signage would give notice to drivers and be of benefit for turtles. Shippee-Rice and Lamb will follow up on this issue.

River Water Testing: Kimball will send out the final schedule to all members. She also will investigate the cost of a replacement turbidity meter.

Saving Special Places Spring Conference: Lamb asked the Commission for reimbursement for registration fee of \$60 and mileage expenses for 92 miles. It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Kimball to reimburse Lamb for these expenses. All votes were in favor. There are monies in the Commission's budget to cover conference participation.

Of Concern: Demeritt shared photos with members at the table of a lot on Pawtuckaway Lake where every tree was marked within the setback from the lake edge. If all of the trees marked were slated to be cut it would be in direct violation of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, Chapter 483 – B. He will contact the realtor to inquire about this. (Note: Demeritt was told by the realtor that the trees were marked to show DES what was on the site and which would be the better trees to remove according to the state regulations.)

Demeritt asked the members for mileage reimbursement to investigate the above. It was moved by Kimball and seconded by Mooney to reimburse Demeritt for 26.6 miles travel in order to investigate this wetland issue. All votes were in favor of the reimbursement.

Well Water Arsenic Testing: Mooney related that in a recent conversation with a resident of Tuftonboro, NH, that their Commission sponsored a town wide private water testing for arsenic program for residents. Mooney will investigate this project further.

It was moved by Bonser and seconded by Kimball to adjourn the meeting. All votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were approved as amended at the meeting held on July 13, 2015.