

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Other members in attendance were Raelene Shippee-Rice, Cheryl Smith, Susan Mooney and Paul Miliotis, Alternate, who was seated for Debra Kimball. Kristen Lamb arrived at 7:10 PM. Guests were Dr. Dale Rice, resident and Mark West, resident, Wetland Scientist and Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG) board member.

Standard Dredge and Fill Minor Impact: Mr. West described a project he was seeking input on that would install granite steps on the bank of the North River at the entry of the North River Preserve for recreational purposes. The property is owned by BPRG and is protected by a conservation easement (CE) held by NRCS. This project will stabilize the area where the bank has been damaged in the past in part by human activity. Remediation is a requirement of the NRCS CE. The permit application will be presented to the DES Wetlands Bureau for their comments and anticipated approval. The steps will impact 48 sq. ft. The steps will be similar to the granite steps that were installed at Wadleigh Falls. Members were shown plans with photos for the installation. Work is expected to begin this September.

It was moved by Shippee-Rice and seconded by Mooney to forward a letter of support to David Price, DES Wetlands Bureau for this project. All six votes were in favor.

Mr. West is in favor of posting turtle signage in sensitive areas in Nottingham. The state does not allow such signs to be erected on state highways, such as Routes 4, 152 and 156. He recommended Freeman Hall Road in the area where wetlands are located on both sides of the road, just south of the four way stop at the Hall. Mr. West left at 7:18.

Report on Sweetser Site Walk: Commission members met at the Sweetser property on July 9, 2015 at 5:00 PM. Members Debra Kimball, Cheryl Smith, Paul Miliotis and Susan Mooney met with David Viale, Project Manager from SouthEast Land Trust (SELT) for the Sweetser CE and David Sweetser, property owner. Please see the attached document, *NCC CE Site Walk, Sweetser Property* that was read at this Commission meeting. Miliotis spoke about the flowering plants around the pond and suggested that a complete inventory of that habitat be taken. Smith added that there was evidence of wild turkey in the field and that we saw and disturbed a raccoon. The public hearing per RSA to disperse monies from the Conservation Fund to provide a required match for the Sweetser CE will be held on Monday July 27.

Minutes from Previous Meetings:

- May 11, 2015. The minutes were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Shippee-Rice, seconded by Lamb. All six (6) voted were in favor.
- June 8, 2015: The minutes were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Shippee-Rice and seconded by Miliotis. All six (6) votes were in favor.
- June 23, 2015. The minutes were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Lamb and seconded by Miliotis. All six (6) votes were in favor.

Correspondence:

- A note re: participation in **Nottingham Family Day** scheduled for September 19. The Commission intends to have a booth and members Mooney, Lamb, and three others may be able to assist. Demeritt may be able to help with booth breakdown. A brief discussion on materials for the booth included a request to SELT for large format maps of the Sweetser and Harvey CE's for display.
- A letter with a petition from Bob Dillberger of the **Mason Conservation Commission**, requesting support to oppose a 25-mile section in NH of a 70 to 75 mile gas pipeline that is proposed to run through southwestern NH. The pipeline, for most of its length, runs through northern Massachusetts but the towns in a 25-mile corridor in MA have denied permission. The proposed pipeline is the project of Kinder Morgan and Tennessee Gas. Several properties in the proposed NH corridor have CE's, some properties are working farms, and there is concern for potential environmental hazard and impacts on wildlife and habitats. The letter will be sent to Governor Hassan, and to all NH Senate and House members at the state and national level. NH is not an exporter of energy and will have no need for this additional fuel. It was moved by Lamb and seconded by Smith to support the petition sponsored by the Mason Conservation Commission on environmental grounds. All six (6) votes were in favor. Each member signed the document.
- **Intent to Cut:**
 1. Map 61, Lot 12A, on Deerfield Road, owned by Dan Godbout. Of 8 acres, to cut 2.
 2. Map 16, Lot 3, Sub lot 1, at 408 Stage Road, owned by Richard Boisvert, of 2 acres, to cut $\frac{1}{4}$ acre.
 3. Map 15, Lot 1-3, and Lot 1-4 at 68 and 61 Garland Road, respectively, owned by Steve Febonio of Maverick Development Corporation in Bedford NH. Respectively, of 15.73 acres, and 10.1 acres, to cut a total of 11 acres. It was reported that a formal complaint was placed with DES because of concern that wetlands including a vernal pool were being negatively impacted.
 4. Map 64, Lots 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, on Route 156, Raymond Road, owned by Jim Fernald. Of 28 acres, to cut a total of 2 acres.
 5. Map 4, Lot 1-1, at on Route 4, owners name not available because the receipt seal from the town was photocopied over the name. The forester is Steve Twombly. Of 31.1 acres, to cut 20.
 6. Map 16, Lot 15-A on North River Lake Road owned by Paul Longueil. Of 26.67 acres, to cut 8.
- Dated 6-16-15, Letter of Deficiency, DSP 10-044, from Steve N. Doyen, Administrator Dam Safety and Inspection station, DES, to owner of Deer Pond Dam, Mr. Stillbach, Simsbury CT, dam located as Map 75, Lot 1, ID # D184011, that an inspection held on April 29, 2015 indicated the following deficiencies: seeping water, cracks in the grout along with other issues. Another letter for the

same site required that debris (branches, trees and brush) be removed that is reducing the dam's efficiency.

- Dated 6-18-15, a Wetlands Permit from DES for Map 68, Lot 56 at 22 Cahill Lane, to Benjamin McMahon, to reduce the footprint of an existing dock by replacing it with a single slip design with attached seasonal dock more suitable for the site and to repair a stone retaining wall.

Bear-Paw Report: There will be a wild edible plants workshop on September 12 and a foliage walk on October 17. Additional information is available on the BPRG website.

Roadside Cleanup: Is scheduled for August 19, alternate date, August 20.

Other:

Shippee-Rice voiced concern that there are not adequate collection sites for people to dispose of hazardous wastes. Mooney will follow up and inquire at the recycling center re: this issue.

Smith asked for additional input to update the spreadsheet on conservation easement projects.

Lamb said that critical turtle crossing areas in Nottingham that would benefit by turtle signs are Case Road, Stevens Hill Road, the west end of Flutter Street, and Garland Road. These are in addition to Freeman Hall Road recommended by West earlier in the meeting.

Miliotis stated that outreach is very important to encourage support for conservation issues. He showed members a calendar from Dunstable MA that shows flora and fauna from the area. He described several types of layout designs and themes. This could be discussed further in a Commission workshop.

Smith gave an update on the Emerald Ash Borer (ALB) and wooly adelgid. There have been several recent reports of the latter infecting hemlock trees.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Shippee-Rice to adjourn. All six (6) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on October 19, 2015.

Addendum:

WRITTEN DECISION OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Conservation Commission held a public hearing per RSA 36-A: 5 II on July 27, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Conference Room #1 at the Municipal Office Complex. The meeting was noticed as prescribed by RSA.

The purpose of the public hearing was to invite comment from the public for the disbursement of up to \$60,000 dollars from the Town's Conservation Fund. This expenditure from the Fund will assist the SouthEast Land Trust (SELT) to place the property into permanent conservation easements totaling 200 acres, more or less. The property is identified as Tax Map 65, Lot 1, along Ledge Farm Road.

Chairperson Sam Demeritt opened the Conservation Commission meeting and public hearing at 7:00. Other members in attendance were Susan Mooney, Debra Kimball, Cheryl Smith and Kristen Lamb (7:10). Also attending were members of the Board of Selectmen, Mary Bonser, Mark Carpenter and Donna Danais and the Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale, who shared the table with Commission members. Guests were David Viale, SELT Project Manager, David Sweetser, property owner, Charlene Andersen and Eugene Reed.

David Viale described the project and property. The property is 200 +/- acres and the total project value is over \$1.1 million dollars. SELT has secured 95% of the project funds. The purchase price and transaction costs for a 170-acre portion will be fully funded by the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program. The approximately 30 acres of open managed field with prime agricultural soils will receive 50% percent NRCS funding through the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program. Matching funds are required to secure the ALE easement. A portion of the matching funds has been secured through grants and a portion will be gifted by the Sweetser family. SELT is asking that the Town of Nottingham assist in the purchase of the easement by providing the last 5% of the project costs and required matching funds via a disbursement of up to \$60,000 from the Conservation Fund. SELT would be the Primary Easement Holder; the Town of Nottingham would hold an Executory Interest and NRCS would be the third party with a Right of Enforcement.

Comments from Commission members, the BOS and the audience were solicited. All comments were favorable. Mr. Sweetser thanked the town for their assistance in protecting the family property.

Chair Demeritt closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM.

It was moved by Lamb and seconded by Kimball to expend up to \$60,000 from the Town's Conservation Fund to provide matching funds for the Sweetser Agricultural Land Easement. All five (5) votes were in favor. The motion passed.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Mooney to adjourn the meeting. All five (5) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22.

Submitted by Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

7-29-15