

Chairperson Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. This meeting was rescheduled from February 8 due to inclement weather. Other members in attendance were Debra Kimball, Liz Kotowski, Alternate, who was seated for Raelene Shippee-Rice, and Krystal Costa, Alternate, who was seated for Susan Mooney.

The **Saving Special Places** annual conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2016 at Prospect Mountain High School in Alton, NH. Land trusts, The Forest Society, The Nature Conservancy, NRCS, and other groups sponsor the conference. The all day program offers presentations and workshops in ten aspects of conservation including agriculture, legal issues, and funding. Several Commission members may be attending this program.

**Conservation Easements:**

- SouthEast Land Trust (SELT) was recently awarded a \$1,000,000 grant to help purchase development on the Harvey Conservation Easement (CE) project. SELT continues to move forward to conserve this large resource-rich block of land, and are now just \$500,000 dollars short of full funding.
- There has been no recent news re: the Sweetser CE on Ledge Farm Road.
- The CE deed for the Fernald CE along Deerfield road was recently executed. The name of the property will be known as "Pawtuckaway Woods".

**Bobcat Hunting:** It appears that there will be a season on bobcat in the future. Plans are for a month of trapping and another month for guns. The Joint Committee on Rules in the NH House of Representatives will hear this proposal from NH Fish and Game.

**Town Website:** Lamb and Mooney have volunteered to work on the update of the Commission's page. It was suggested that the Commission should hold a workshop to organize and prioritize the page to include the following:

1. Town Owned Properties with conservation easements held by NRCS: Tasker and Merriam-Daggett
2. Maps of CE's in town that have public assess; provide map files as pdf's for viewers to download
3. Well water testing information
4. Upcoming Events: Talks and Walks

5. Resources page and partners, links to SELT, Bear-Paw, Lamprey River Watershed Association, for example
6. Wetland and Vernal pool information
7. BMP for land owners

There was discussion about the establishment of a Facebook page as well as an instagram account, linked together. The purpose of these would be to announce programs and to share photos of easement walks. Kimball will contact the Town Administrator; Costa volunteered to set up these media sites.

**Master Plan Update tasks for the Commission:** Members first reviewed the twelve (12) topics/tasks assigned to the Commission in 2013. These twelve fall into the following chapters of the Master Plan: Natural Resources, Land Use and Transportation. Seven are assigned for “immediate” attention, four (4) are “short term” and one (1) is ongoing. Additionally there are several items on the Planning Board’s list that are of conservation value. All of these will be revisited at the March NCC meeting to be rank ordered and in anticipation of a workshop meeting with the Board on May 25.

**Correspondence:**

- Pawtuckaway Woods: A copy of the CE Warranty Deed was received for the NCC files. Said deed was signed on 02-05-2016 by the Forestry Society, and cosigned by Demeritt on behalf of the Town of Nottingham. The Forestry Society is the primary holder of the CE deed and the town of Nottingham has Executory interest.
- Dated 02-05-16, to Roscoe Blaisdell from DES re; Wetland Program Notification Application Package for proposed timber cut activity at Tax Map 74, Lot 22-3 on Cilley Road. The letter indicated that the application package was missing the required fee.
- Dated 01-24-16, an Intent To Cut, located at Tax map 61, Lot 16 on Deerfield Road. Of 40 acres, 35 acres are to be cut. Property is owned by J. Garaufis, H. Francis and N. Garaufis. Logger is Dennis J. Crowley Lumber & Exc., LLL from Chester, NH.

**Minutes:**

- The meeting minutes for January 11, 2016 were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Kimball, seconded by Kotowski and all four (4) votes were in the affirmative.

- The meeting/workshop minutes for January 21, 2016 were accepted as corrected. The motion was made by Demeritt, seconded by Kotowski and all four (4) votes were in the affirmative.

**Reimbursement for:** A motion was made by Kotowski to reimburse Susan Mooney for a 56 mile round trip in which four NCC members attended the Wild Life Action Plan 2015 Update that was held at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth on 02-17-16. The motion was seconded by Kimball and all four (4) votes were in the affirmative.

**Well Water Testing:** An outreach and assistance program at the Blaisdell Memorial Library is scheduled for March 30 at 6:30 PM. There will be three components to the presentation: an explanation of NH's underlying geology; the health issues that have been linked to drinking water contaminants; and how to sample one's well water and bring it to a collection site for testing by the NH Labs.

**Pawtuckaway River Logging Activity:** A Division of Regional Economic Development (NH DRED) Regional Forester, contracted by the Department of Revenue and Administration (DRA) did visit the site of alleged wetland violations but was unable to reach the forester. It was thought that "he" had moved "north". NH Division of Forestry and Lands is reviewing a possible wetlands violation.

**Reappointment of NCC members:** Costa moved to recommend Susan Mooney, Debra Kimball and Kristen Lamb for three-year terms on the Commission. The motion was seconded by Kotowski and all four (4) votes were in the affirmative. The recommendations will be sent to the Board of Selectmen for their appointments.

**Other Business:** Discussions were about the following projects:

- A culvert-monitoring day to identify undersized culverts in town. Costa would draft a map of the town roads locating locations, designs, conditions, and sizes of culverts. Such a project would benefit from the knowledge of Nottingham's Highway Department.
- A vernal pool workshop for this coming spring? Maybe coordinate with Bear-Paw and local wetland scientists?

A motion to adjourn was made by Kimball and seconded by Costa. All four (4) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Kimball

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on April 11, 2016.