

## **Town of Nottingham, New Hampshire**

### **Conservation Commission Minutes**

**January 09, 2017**

Chairperson Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:07 PM. Other members in attendance were Kristen Lamb, Cheryl Smith, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Liz Kotowski, Alternate, who was seated for Debra Kimball, Paul Miliotis.

Guests were Dr. Dale Rice and Wendy Carlson, residents of Nottingham. Jesse Carlson, a senior at Plymouth State University, NH was in attendance to do an invited presentation on light pollution.

Introductions were made.

### **Announcements:**

**Harvey Conservation Easement** project is completed.

Town of Nottingham Select Board voted to approve the draft Conservation Easement deed related to a parcel owned by Applehurst Farm, LLC.

**Bear Paw Regional Greenways** hosts the annual meeting January 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM at Coe Brown Academy, Northwood, New Hampshire. Guest speaker for the morning program is Sam Evans Brown, award-winning host of New Hampshire Public Radio's *Outside/In* program. A potluck lunch will be served 12:00-1:00 PM followed by a hike to Bennett Island, on Bow Lake that will follow the morning program.

**University of New Hampshire** is hosting a series of seminars and training courses, January – August 2017, on land surveying, soil science, construction management & related topics. Customized training is also available as a resource for local organizations and conservation agencies.

### **Membership Renewals:**

**Bear Paw Regional Greenways** due for renewal. The membership will be renewed at a fee of \$100.00 and is included in the Commission's (NCC) 2017 budget.

**Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests** requested membership consideration from the NCC. Funds have not been budgeted in current year for membership. It will be considered for inclusion in 2018 annual budget.

### **Monitoring Report:**

**Society for Prevention of New Hampshire Forests** submitted a report of 2016 monitoring activities for Fernald, Helen E., 1992 Trust property associated with the Nottingham Conservation Commission. No violations noted. There are no known plans that may have an effect on the easement in the future.

**Invited Presentation, Jesse Carlson:** The Nottingham Conservation Commission invited Jesse Carlson, a senior student majoring in environmental resources to do a presentation on light pollution, a project he has been working on with faculty preceptor/mentors at Plymouth State University. The presentation (see Appendix A) focused on the potentially harmful effects of light pollution on human, animal, and plant health and behavior. Mr. Carlson discussed several documented recommendations for mitigating some of these harmful effects. He also provided information on general resources including books, pamphlets (*IDA Practical Guide*) and websites (<[www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)> for example) that provide additional information (See Appendix B). Of special interest was the review of different types of outdoor lighting fixtures (See Appendix C). The presentation generated extended discussion on potential activities the NCC may want to consider to increase community awareness in Nottingham residents about light pollution concerns and potential solutions.

There was an extended discussion following completion of Mr. Carlson's presentation. A key point in the discussion focused on ways to inform the community of the concerns created by light pollution and suggestions for decreasing pollution especially in areas where harmful effects may have greatest impact on wildlife and plants such as lake and municipal sites and those bordering wetland properties. Suggestions included library talks, collaboration with neighboring communities, considering use of low emitting LED and replacing blue light LED with warm light LED, exploration of the work of the International Dark-Sky Association, and investigating the Eversource funding program for homeowner energy audit.

The Nottingham Library has a telescope available for community use. Perhaps NCC could do a program for town residents on light pollution and its effect on viewing the night sky.

State RSA's contain legislation regarding energy and planning that can effect light pollution.

Northwood has considered ordinances related to the lighting at the Irving gas station on Route 4.

Mr. Carlson suggested we contact Professor Rochelle Lyons at Plymouth State University as an additional information resource on light pollution.

An outline of Mr. Carlson's presentation plus references/resources including information on outdoor lights fixtures will be available as a separate document on the website, Town of Nottingham, Nottingham Conservation Commission and a hard copy at Blaisdell memorial Library.

**Conservation Easement Monitoring.** Celia Abrams conducted a monitoring walk of the Terninko property on December 28, 2016. All elements of the monitoring were satisfactory.

### **Correspondence:**

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)** sent a copy of the newsletter entitled, *Supply Lines with the Source*, to NCC for review.

**NHDES** sent a letter to a landowner requesting further information related to a Standard Dredge and Fill application for Map 68, Lot 49-1.

**NHDES** sent a letter approving timber harvesting to commence as of December, 2016, on the following Tax Map & Lot: 17/14

Letter from **Town of Nottingham Board of Selectmen** approving the draft Conservation Easement Deed related to land owned by Applehurst Farm, LLC.

### **Review of Minutes**

#### **November 14, 2016**

Minutes were reviewed and accepted as amended with edits by Liz Kotowski. Cheryl Smith moved to accept amended minutes with second by Kristen Lamb.

Votes: Ayes-6, Opposed-0, Abstain-0.

#### **December 12, 2016**

Minutes amended per group discussion. Minutes to be reviewed at NCC February meeting. Cheryl Smith voted to accept minutes as amended; seconded by Kristen Lamb.

Votes: Aye-6, Oppose-0, Abstain-0

### **Other:**

**Susan Mooney** submitted a proposal for a form to be used by subdivision developers. She proposed that NCC use the document to inform developers the type of documents needed for NCC to do a project review. The proposal will be reviewed and discussed by NCC at a future meeting.

## **Town Report 2016**

Sam Demeritt will draft the NCC town report and send to members for review and comment. Key points to include are the completions of the Harvey and Sweetser Conservation Easements, and the Completion of a Wild Life Inventory by Paul Miliotis on the recent Fernald Conservation Easement, now named Pawtuckaway Woods. NCC report to be submitted by January 27, 2017.

## **Nottingham Town Meeting 2017**

Kristen Lamb recommended that NCC have a map with description of properties available at Town Meeting to inform townspeople of what lands have been put into conservation easements and evoke questions about the conservation easement process and goals. The NCC will display Wildlife Action Plan map for Nottingham that use UNH Cooperative Extension data to highlight the diversity of species and the unique quality of wildlife habitat in Nottingham. The town moderator will need to be contacted.

**Update on North River Beaver Dams:** NHDES was notified of beaver dam destruction by motorized equipment at two sites on the North River: on the Kimball Family Forest conservation easement property and on a Garland Road private house lot. Although NHDES was notified and photographs of the destruction were sent to the state, no action has been taken.

Liz Kotowski suggested that NCC submit a formal complaint to NHDES by completing and submitting a NHDES complaint form. Cheryl Smith and Sam Demeritt will draft a letter to DES and complete the complaint form. Paul Colby, Code Enforcement Officer will be contacted as a resource if needed.

Smith moved for adjournment. Seconded by Lamb. All six (6) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Raelene Shippee-Rice

This is a draft document. These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on February 15, 2017.