

Samuel Demeritt opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM in Conference Room #1. The purpose of the hearing was to seek public comment on the Commission's approval to direct a total of \$16,030.25 from the Conservation Fund for a proposed conservation easement (CE) to be placed on the town-owned 34.2 acre Kennard parcel (Map 11, Lot 6).

Other members of the Commission in attendance were Cheryl Smith, Susan Mooney, Paul Miliotis, Kristen Lamb, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Debra Kimball and Liz Kotowski, alternate. Some Commission members sat at the table along with members of the Select Board.

The purpose of conducting the public hearing at this time was to be able to pay the outstanding bills due for completed survey work as soon as possible. Warrant Article #15, if approved by the voters at Town Meeting, will allow the Select Board to place a conservation easement on this parcel. Anticipating that the vote will be favorable, the additional funds required to cover the administrative costs and monitoring fees for the easement will be dispersed from the Conservation Fund. The total amount from the Conservation Fund for all expenses related to the project is not to exceed \$16, 030.25. Demeritt and Smith described the easement project and the status of the Conservation Fund with the Select Board members. If and when completed, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways will hold the easement deed. Because the town of Nottingham is the fee holder, it cannot hold the executory interest on the CE deed. Mr. Charlie Brown, who was the Town Administrator when the town purchased the property, spoke about the wishes of Ronald Kennard and his family. Comments and questions from the public were asked for. There were none. Demeritt closed the hearing at 7:07 PM.

Mr. Brown moved that the Select Board release an amount not to exceed \$16,030.25 for the Kennard CE Project. (It was not noted who seconded the motion.) The Board members unanimously voted in favor.

The Select Board asked for the Commission's assistance in appealing for at least one member of the community to serve on the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC). Of the 14 communities in the extensive Lamprey River watershed, Nottingham comprises 22% of the total land cover. At this time, Nottingham has no representation on this important committee that reviews all applications with wetland impacts for NH DES.

At 7:10 PM the Commission members retired to Conference Room #2, to conduct the regularly scheduled meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:16 PM.

Guests that joined us were Dr. Dale Rice, resident, Peter White, resident and member of the Nottingham Water Alliance (NWA), and William Scimone, resident, member of NWA and a lake monitor for North River Lake.

Announcements: Demeritt reported to the viewing public that the Commission just completed a public hearing to seek approval from the Select Board to release \$16,030.25 from the town's Conservation Fund for the Kennard CE project.

Mr. White spoke about the Nottingham Water Reliance. The NWA has drawn up a Rights Based Ordinance (RBO), recognized in part by political and legal entities. The "Nottingham Community Bill of Rights Ordinance (NCBORO)" itself is very lengthy, so they did not bring along a hard copy. However, there is a copy located in the Business Office. Warrant Article #19, to be voted on at Town Meeting, includes a new section to the NCBORO to ban toxic wastes in Nottingham along with additional restrictions to strengthen the protections of water already in place. Fourteen communities in the state have similar Bills of Rights. Commission members received two handouts related to the Ordinance. Mr. Scimone also spoke about Article #19 and both gentlemen answered questions from Commission members. There will be a public hearing on February 22, at 7:00 PM for the public to attend. Members were in support of the NWA including the new section that addresses a ban on toxic wastes and in addition to the new language to strengthen protections for Nottingham's water resources.

Mr. White and Mr. Scimone left the meeting at 7:43 PM.

Winter Woods Walk: Lamb will lead a public walk through the 34-acre town-owned Kennard parcel scheduled for Sunday, March 3, commencing at 9:00 AM. She will design a flier to post in the community and to post on the Conservation's Facebook page. The purpose of the event is to introduce this forest for the public to enjoy. Even a parcel this size is diverse with wetlands and rocky outcroppings and will provide plenty of opportunity for discovering winter wildlife signs.

Commission Appointments: After a short discussion it was moved by Smith and seconded by Mooney to recommend to the Select Board that Sam Demeritt be reappointed as a full member to the Commission for a three-year term; to recommend that Paul Miliotis be appointed as an alternate member; and to recommend that Liz Kotowski be appointed as a full member. All seven (7) votes were in favor. Demeritt noted the decisions of the Commission on letterhead and Mooney hand carried the correspondence to the Board's secretary. Unfortunately, the Board had already adjourned for the evening.

Trails Committee Report: Kotowski stated that the Committee has met three times, and there are at present eleven (11) members. It is anticipated that there will be an additional member joining from the Recreation Department. Kotowski and Leanne Gast are writing a grant proposal to the LRAC, Small Grants Program that awards up to \$5000 for area projects. There will be a silent auction at Nottingham Earth Day, sponsored by the Recreational Department, the proceeds of which will be directed to the Commission for their disposal. It could be decided that expenditure visible to the public, such as a kiosk for a trailhead, would be appropriate. Kotowski indicated that they hope each meeting would have a guest in attendance who would be able to offer expertise in the Committee's several initiatives.

Announcements: In reference to the above-mentioned appeal for a resident volunteer to serve on the LRAC for Nottingham, Demeritt indicated that the monthly meetings are usually scheduled for Tuesdays in the early evening.

Lamprey River Watershed Association: No meeting this month.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways: Demeritt reported that the Annual Meeting in January hosted approximately 100 attendees.

Minutes: The minutes of October 16, 2017 were reviewed and edited. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected. All seven (7) votes were in favor. Kimball will send the edited minutes to Mooney to save, file and post on the Commission's web page.

Correspondence: Received from the Planning Board, a conceptual plan proposed along NH Route 4 for a six (6) lot subdivision, Map 15, Lot 8, an 18.88 acre parcel owned by Jeffrey Cole Builders, LLC. The Commission had many concerns, particularly the abundance of steep slopes (those over 25%) on the property, with switchback design for driveways, that would contribute to the marked potential for erosion and runoff and public safety, including fire and rescue, when driveways are inadequate during ice and snow events. The two (2) proposed shared driveways (for Lots 8-2 & 8-3, and for 8-4 & 8-5) and did not appear adequate to compensate for these real concerns. Where would homeowners park when driveways were impassible? Along NH Route 4? If the expectation is parking along NH Route 4, the Commission has concerns for the safety of drivers and pedestrians.

Discussion included a request that the Planning Board review the Steep Slopes Ordinance that was crafted several years ago by the Planning Board but failed to move forward for voters to decide at Town Meeting.

Note: Shippee-Rice and Dr. Rice left at 9:06 PM during the discussion of the site plan review above. Kotowski was seated for Shippee-Rice.

Minutes: It was decided to postpone a review of the December 2017 minutes.

Correspondence, continued:

- Dated 2-2-18, received from Normandeau Associates re: Transmission Line # 307, the power line from Deerfield to NH Route 4 and into Barrington, that there are needed structural replacements that will be attended to in the Mulligan Forest area. No working dates noted.
- Dated 2-6-18, from SouthEast Land Trust (SELT) a conservation easement monitoring report for the Applehurst Farm, LLC (Harvey Farm) for which Nottingham holds an executory interest. The report was favorable.

Other:

- Kotowski reported, via an email from Krystal Costa, that DES is seeking input for updating their wetland pamphlets.
- Lamb had conservation concerns and questions about the rationale by town leadership to pave the entire length of Ledge Farm Road in the near future.
- Mooney will resend to Demeritt the "Roads List" letter, developed in 2017 to forward to the Chair of the Select Board in order to remind the community of concerns addressing resource protection and other important issues.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kotowski to adjourn. All seven (7) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on April 9, 2018.