

(Note: At 6:45 PM, Commission Members gathered at the Select Board meeting where Tom Howe, representing the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, assisted by Sam Demeritt, Conservation Commission Chairperson, presented to the Board a plaque commemorating the town's support in helping to conserve financially and enthusiastically the recent Helen Fernald Conservation Easement. This easement now protects over 90 acres of working forest abutting Deerfield Road, Pawtuckaway State Forest and Pawtuckaway Lake, on three sides. A previous easement in Nottingham sponsored by the Forest Society, is Mulligan Forest, protecting over 2000 acres of working forest and wildlife habitat that overlays a large important aquifer.)

Chairperson Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. Other members in attendance were Debra Kimball, Cheryl Smith, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Susan Mooney, and Liz Kotowski, alternate, who was seated for Paul Miliotis. Kristen Lamb arrived at 7:10 PM.

Guest was Dr. Dale Rice, resident.

Paul Miliotis arrived at 8:24 PM. Kotowski "sat down" from a voting position.

Announcements: There were none.

Roadside Cleanup Report: Demeritt stated that the total number of bags of trash collected on April 20 and May 1 was 25 bags. We were grateful for the assistance of a resident volunteer with this activity and encourage other residents to participate in road side cleanups in their area.

Kimball related to the members that there was quite a bit of litter at the Town Beach, particularly near the trashcan by the dam. Kotowski will contact the Recreation Director and the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA) about this matter.

Mooney will again contact DOT to request "Please Adopt this Highway" signage for Route 152 just past the North River Bridge and the Lee town line to Berry Road and for a stretch of Route 4 that includes the conservation properties identified as "Mendums One" and "Mendums Two" owned by the Mendums Pond Association.

Correspondence:

- Intent to Cut: received for map 18, Lots 3-3 and 3-4, at 31 Gebig Road. Of 51.5 acres, to cut 40 acres.
- Dated 4-25-17, Complete Forestry Notification, Wetlands Minimum Impact Forestry Notification for Map 65, and Map 66, Lot 3-4. For Applehurst Farm, LLC (the Harvey property), c/o Erica Martel, 222 Nottingham Square Road, Epping. (Part of this property extends into Nottingham.) The letter stated " Notice is sufficient to start work provided that... six (6) items listed (were followed)".
- From Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD), a request to please rank the five (5) most important natural resource concerns or issues from the list

provided and return to RCCD. We voted and ranked those of most concern for Nottingham.

- Received, a flier from the Forest Society (SPNHF) containing their calendar of events in 2017.

Lamprey River Watershed Association (LRWA): Demeritt reported on a recent meeting of the LRWA. River water testing equipment kits are being sent to DES to ready them for the summer Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP). There will be two trainings available for volunteer water samplers: Saturday, May 20 at 10:00 AM in Epping, at the Mill Street Bridge and an additional time on Wednesday, May 24 at 4:30 PM.

The LRWA Executive Director has retired from the position and the Association is interviewing for a replacement director.

Kimball will attend to scheduling the testing dates and will get in touch with Celia Abrams who has participated in this activity since its onset.

Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association: Kotowski reminded members that the PLIA's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 20 at the Town Office Building, from 9:00 AM to noon.

Trail Mapping: Kotowski reported that SouthEast Land Trust (SELT) would be taking the lead for trail mapping in Nottingham for properties that are in conservation easements with them.

Kimball described the "ski trail", an Eagle Scout project that is behind the Town Office Building, just beyond the field. It is a fitness trail with stations for particular exercises and stretches.

Mulligan Forest should have a trail map available on line as well as for the trail along the North River on the property known as the North River Preserve owned by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG) land trust.

Other:

- Demeritt will schedule the Dark Skies presentation by Jesse Carlson for the Planning Board.
- A committee of two (so far) will identify and compile a list of the first, second and third order streams for possible local level protection for these wetlands. Kotowski and Mooney will work with Kyle Pimental at Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) on this project.
- Lamb stated that she would be picking up hinged turtle crossing signs from Mike Marchand, NH F&G for three sites in Nottingham: Berry Road, Deerfield Road and Flutter Street. Lamb spoke with Mr. Sterndale, Town Administrator, who indicated that the town highway department will place these signs at their determined locations and Commission members will flip them so they are visible marking the critical time of year. Mooney will determine the start and stop locations for Flutter and Berry and provide that information to Lamb. Similar

signs to purchase cost \$30. Stevens Hill Road where it nears Quincy Pond is another place where turtles are often noted crossing the road.

Executive Director of BPRG, Dan Kern arrived at 7:48 PM. Mr. Kern discussed three potential conservation easement (CE) projects with the Commission.

- The town owns, in fee, the 34.1 acre Kennard property on Kennard Road, known as Map 11, Lot 6. The survey and conservation easement fees are estimated to be approximately \$12,500, at a total cost of \$367.65 per acre. Mooney will review the minutes of to determine if any Conservation Fund money has been earmarked for this easement project.
- The Commission asked on behalf of John Terninko, resident and landowner, if BPRG would do the transactions needed to put one of Mr. Terninko's properties (Map 9, Lot 10) into an easement. The Commission, representing the town, is willing to hold the CE deed and monitor the new property annually. The entire lot is about 46 acres, about 2/3 is already in an easement and is being managed as New England Cottontail habitat. The remaining acreage is mostly field used for vegetable gardening and hay. The transaction costs including a possible survey is estimated to be \$4,400.
- Map 14, Lot 14 on Garland Road is owned by Dr. Dale Rice and Raelene Shippee-Rice. The parcel is about 11 acres and the back boundary abuts the North River. The project will remove two acres for the house lot and leave about nine (9) acres to be protected. BPRG is very interested in helping to protect this watershed. There is enough frontage along Garland Road to subdivide but the owners do not want that to happen because of the possibility of additional development and activity negatively impacting the watershed. The projected cost is \$11,995, at a cost per acre of \$1090.45; BPRG will be the primary holders of the CE deed and Nottingham will hold the executory interest.

It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Smith to "approve the expenditure of \$12,500, \$4,400 and \$11,995, for a total of \$28,895 from the Town's Conservation Fund for these three conservation easement projects".

An amendment was proposed by Smith and seconded by Mooney that the motion includes "pending the balance of the Town's Conservation Fund as of April 1, 2017". There were six (6) votes in the affirmative, and one (1) abstention.

The amended motion to "approve the expenditure of \$12,500, \$4,400 and \$11, 995 for a total of \$28,895 from the Town's Conservation Fund for these three conservation easement projects, pending the balance of the Town's Conservation Fund as of April 1, 2017", was voted on. There were six (6) votes in the affirmative, and one (1) abstention.

Mr. Kern left the meeting. Time not noted.

Kimball left the meeting at 8:40. Kotowski was reseated for Kimball.
(More discussion about turtle sign details.)

Shippee-Rice and Guest Dr. Dale Rice left the meeting at 8:55 PM.

It was suggested that the Commission hold an additional May meeting to review several sets of minutes and to discuss our findings re: Shea Concrete's wetland application to DES, Wetlands Bureau.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:00 PM in Conference Room 2.

It was moved by Mooney and seconded by Smith to adjourn. Six (6) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on May 16, 2017.