

**Public Hearing:** The Commission convened in Conference Room #1, with the Select Board and others in attendance. Demeritt opened the public hearing at 7:10 PM. Other commission members present were Liz Kotowski, Cheryl Smith, Debra Kimball and Susan Mooney. The purpose of the hearing was to invite public comment, per RSA 36-A:5 and RSA 675:7, in order to release a sum of money from the Nottingham Conservation Fund for a conservation easement project. Demeritt explained that at a recent meeting (April 24, 2018), Commission members voted to approve up to \$4500 from the Conservation Fund to pay for a conservation appraisal for an easement project. Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership has approved a grant application from the Commission on behalf of the town so that the town's Fund would be reimbursed 50% of the cost of the appraisal. Demeritt described the parcel and its conservation and esthetic values to Nottingham. It is a working farm and the owners would like to ensure that is protected from future development. They have been working with the Commission and SouthEast Land Trust (SELT) to this end.

The latest information was that the appraisal cost would be \$3100 total, and that it would be completed in July.

Select Board members discussed the project with Commission members. A Board member inquired if there had been some discussion among the principals about the option to purchase at agricultural value, a program abbreviated as OPAV. In this program, agricultural land must be maintained as open field and pasture and not be allowed to grow up into shrubland and forest. Commission members will follow up on this information with the owners and SELT.

There were no comments from attendees in the audience. Demeritt closed the public meeting at 7:16 PM.

The Select Board then moved to release monies from the Conservation Fund as directed by the Commission, per RSA 36-A:5 II. Tiler Eaton moved to approve the release of \$3100 from the Fund; Charlene Andersen seconded the motion. All four (4) votes were in favor. The motion passed.

At 7:20 PM Commission members reconvened in Conference Room #2.

***Nottingham Conservation Commission Strategic Plan 2016-2019 Update:***

Edits to the *Nottingham Conservation Commission Strategic Plan 2016-2019* were acceptable to members and a vote to adopt the updated *Strategic Plan 2017-2019* was taken. A motion was made by Mooney and seconded by Smith to adopt the updated *Plan*. All five (5) votes were in favor. The update will be posted on the Commission's web page.

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Kotowski and seconded by Smith to adjourn. All five (5) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were approved as edited at the meeting held on July 9, 2018.