

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss local stream protections and to update a potential conservation easement project, identified as P7 at this time.

Demeritt opened the meeting at 8:00 AM. Other members in attendance were Kristen Lamb, Liz Kotowski and Susan Mooney.

Local Stream and River Protections Initiative: Area communities with local protection ordinances for their rivers and streams, were chosen due to their demographic and natural resource similarities to Nottingham and assigned to members to research: Deerfield – Kotowski; Lee and Fremont – Mooney; Barrington – Lamb. Regulations from these communities will be sent to members for review prior to the next Commission meeting. Members reviewed the “NH DES Consolidated List of Waterbodies” that lists NH towns that have local ordinances and the buffer size each has adopted for its waterways. Members reviewed the large-scale map that Kyle Pimental of Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) left for us at the August 13 meeting. Names of waterbodies were noted. It was suggested that Leanne Gast, who is a member of the Historical Society, be asked to review the history of the names. Unnamed streams might be designated by some ID system at this time. Demeritt will check with the Town Administrator about monies to support an outreach effort.

End goal is to provide for local protection for our lower order (smaller) streams and rivers that are not included in the state’s Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, Chapter 483-B.

Lamb suggested that we use the Commission’s Facebook page for outreach, indicating that all waters are connected above and below ground and that the total system for clean water to drink and for habitat integrity needs to be addressed at all levels. Someone needs to inquire about deadlines for legal review and public hearings that are required prior to submitting articles to the town warrant.

Mooney will contact Kyle Pimental at SRPC to see if they could provide us with an additional map of the waterways and ponds in Nottingham, with some edits and additions: use different colors of streams for the two blues that are so similar, include roadways and major wetlands (Critical Wetlands) in Nottingham on such a map. Mooney will also inquire about the person he recommended as a good facilitator at SRPC for a possible open house.

Schedule: The draft should be sent to Commission members by October 12 for the meeting on the 15th. Then the draft will be emailed to the Planning Board for review at the October 24th meeting. It was suggested that the Commission also meet with the Select Board to include discussion of this initiative in one of our periodic meetings with them and to also keep the Town Administrator in the loop. The draft ordinance will be submitted to legal review in November. Public hearings could be scheduled in December but must be scheduled before deadline in January.

Conservation Easement (CE) Project P7: Jeremy Loungee from SouthEast Land Trust (SELT) had arrived at 9:00 AM. At 9:10 AM Mr. Loungee reviewed the CE project with Kotowski and Lamb, going over the budget options and timeline choices presented to the property owners. In short, there would be less money available in a shorter timeframe, but a higher amount could be available at a later date. Receiving a conservation easement grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a major reason for the difference in compensation. For an NRCS application, the documents would need to be submitted in January 2019: in March or April there would be an acceptance or rejection from NRCS. The dollar difference between the two options is sufficient enough that the owners will be conferring with their accountant for guidance. The appraisal for the portion that would be placed into a CE has been completed; presently there is an appraisal being conducted for the house and other structures in the parcel area that will not be included in the easement. There was a brief discussion on the possibility of conducting a fund raising effort so as not to completely deplete the monies in the Conservation Fund with this project. Lamb will ask the town administrator where the raised monies would go if there were fund raising efforts. Mooney will include this CE project in a Conservation Commission News article for the Nottingham Newsletter when it is appropriate to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on September 10, 2018.