

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:07 PM. Other members in attendance were Cheryl Smith, Jon Rydberg, Debra Kimball, Susan Mooney and Raelene Shippee-Rice, alternate, who was seated for Kristen Lamb.

New Member: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Commission welcomed Jon Rydberg as a new member on the Commission. The Commission had recommended Rydberg to the Select Board an appointment for the open seat.

Announcements: The Bear-Paw Annual meeting will be held at the Hooksett Public Library on Saturday, January 25. Sandra Houghton of NH Fish and Game will be the featured speaker; her program will focus on bat populations within the state.

Conservation Easement Projects: There potentially exists the opportunity to conserve a parcel approximately 100 acres in size in a strategic location in Nottingham. The owner has been considering developing the property and he has been willing to communicate with the Commission about alternate proposals. The discussion is in the very preliminary stages. Demeritt has contacted the owner and Mooney has contacted SELT on this matter.

An additional project, also in the very early stages, would potentially include several parcels, also totaling about 100 acres. This area is ecologically diverse with rich habitat types and is located in an area that provides connectivity for the Four Generals Greenway.

Trails Committee (NTC) Report, reported by Demeritt and Kimball: A meeting of the NTC was held on January 2, at 6:30 PM. There will be a work session at Marsh Woods on January 18, from 10 AM to 12 PM. The Merriam-Daggett scope of work will include retagging the proposed trail and removing debris that has fallen into the path. The next meeting will be held on February 6 at 6:30 PM in Conference Room #2. Another work session is scheduled for February 15, also from 10:00 to 12:00 to clear the trail of debris on the town office trail (Boy Scout Fitness Trail). There are some large obstructions that will require the use of chain saws.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG): Demeritt reported on the Annual Meeting (see above) and four current projects in the BPRG region. The project in Raymond has been dropped.

Lamprey River Watershed Association (LRWA): Demeritt reported that the 13th Annual Lamprey River Symposium will be held on Thursday, January 16 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at UNH in James Hall. This well attended event features over a dozen seminar sessions, discussion groups and poster displays about current research projects that relate to watersheds and basins.

Dark Skies Initiative: Shippee-Rice initiated a discussion about Commission members reviewing the town's existing ordinance for discussion at the next meeting. Talking points to include how to engage the community; social media marketing, and the like.

Correspondence:

- Received from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests: a notice to renew our annual membership that came due January 8, 2020. It was moved by Kimball and seconded by Shippee-Rice to renew the membership at the same rate as the previous year. All six (6) votes were in the affirmative.
- Supply Lines With the Source, Fall 2019: A newsletter from NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau.
- Dated 11-22-190, a personal thank you note from Ronald Kennard about the William E. Kennard Forest and the recent conservation easement held by BPRG. The parcel is owned in fee by the town of Nottingham.

Minutes: The minutes of December 9, 2019 were reviewed. A motion by Smith and seconded by Shippee-Rice was to accept the minutes as read. The motion passed, all six (6) votes were in the affirmative.

Commission's Annual Report Draft for 2019: Demeritt has sent the draft to members and requested that edits be submitted to him. The final document is due to the business office by the end of January.

Intent to Cut: Was an Intent to Cut copy made available for the subdivision along Poor Farm Road, the application recently reviewed by the Commission? Demeritt will check with the business office.

Easement Monitoring 2019: Recent monitoring of the 19 deed restrictions at the Highlands housing development revealed continuing disturbance at one location in particular. This lot that abuts a large open wetland has shown evidence of vegetation removal for many years, likely to provide a viewscape to the wetland from the house. Mooney was requested to send a draft of a letter to Commission members before-hand to be followed by a letter to the owner and the Select Board regarding this matter.

Note: Kimball left at 8:30 PM.

Adjournment: It was moved by Rydberg and seconded by Smith to adjourn. All five (5) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on February 10, 2020.