

Conservation Commission Minutes February 12, 2024

Chair Sam Demeritt opened the meeting at 7:02 PM. Other members in attendance were Cheryl Smith, Susan Mooney, Mary Colvard and Johan Kerkhove, Alternate, who was seated for Debra Kimball. Guests present were Mark West, Paul Thibodeau and Chris Doyle.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

Susan Mooney left the meeting at 7:07PM.

Announcements:

- The Bear-Paw Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 17, and will be held at Coe-Brown Academy. Registration begins at 8:30 AM, the meeting starts at 9:00. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Pamela Hunt, Senior Biologist for Avian Conservation, NH Audubon, who will present “The State of New Hampshire Birds”. Following the meeting an optional walk is planned at Northwood Meadows.

Mark West:

- Mr. West is working with Susan Buckley at 33 Stevens Hill Road (Map 45 Lot 8-6) on a Maintenance Dredge Permit for the pond on the property. This is a temporary impact permit. The pond is growing-in with organic matter. The pond is 8,279 ft². Based on the new state rules, the project qualifies for a Permit by Notification (PBN). The pond is active; it is not in a priority resource area (PRA). There will be less than 20,000ft² impact and this is within the existing pond footprint. There are no streams or nearby wetlands.

A motion to approve the project was made by Smith and seconded by Colvard. All four (4) votes were in favor.

Paul Thibodeau:

- Mr Thibodeau, representing Ernstoff Trust, discussed the possibility of a conservation easement on the property at 35 Deerfield Road (Map 53, Lot 6, subplot 2). (note: this project was also known as P17). The Commission had initial discussions with Mr. Michael Ernstoff in 2020, but the owner decided to step back and reconsider their options.)

Mr. Thibodeau shared maps of the property. One of the maps showed a conventional potential build-out of 32 lots. He also shared a map of a proposed Open Space Design (OSD) subdivision (33 lots).

He indicated the owners would be interested in putting approximately 110 acres into a conservation easement. Smith asked for maps showing the proposed developments with detailed contours and wetlands indicated. Mr. Thibodeau said he would ask.

Reports:

- Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG): A Winter Tracking Exploration event is planned for March 23. See the BPRG website for details of scheduled events <https://www.bear->

paw.org/news-events. The Farm and Forest Expo will be held in May at the Deerfield Fairgrounds. The Land Protection Committee is conducting a policy review regarding amendments to easements. BPRG is looking at Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant opportunities for several properties in Epsom, Strafford, Nottingham, Barnstead and Northwood.

Correspondence:

- Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF): A report of recent SPNHF accomplishments, and request for dues payment.
- All From NH DES Wetlands Bureau
 1. Dated Jan 11, 2024. Shoreland Permit Application File # 2023-03325, Permit Application received for Pawtuckaway Road, Map 76, Lot 2.
 2. Dated Jan 18, 2024, received Jan 30, 2024, to Janice and Peter Nelson. Denied Non-Compliant Wetland Permit-by-Notification Application File # 2024-00031 for 26 Birch Tree Lane formerly 8n River Lake Road, Map 1, Lot 60.
 3. Received Jan 30, 2024, to Andrew and Kelly Stephens. Approval of Shoreland Impact Permit # 2030-03226 for 38 White's Grove Road, Map 63, Lot 62. Approval date Jan 12, 2024. 7,885 ft² impact.
 4. Received February 8, 2024, to to State of NH – DNCR, c/o Seth Prescott, Concord NH, approval of Shoreland Impact Permit # 2023-03325, for Pawtuckaway Road, Map 76, Lot 2. Impact of 28,225 ft² to replace existing boathouse at Pawtuckaway State Park

Meeting Minutes: The minutes of January 8, 2024 were reviewed. A few additional edits were suggested. It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kerkhove to accept said minutes as corrected. All four (4) votes were in favor.

Other:

- Colvard shared an insert from the 1989 Town Report. The insert was the report from the Commission and included a drawing.

Adjournment: It was moved by Kerkhove and seconded by Colvard to adjourn the meeting. All four (4) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheryl A. Smith

These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on March 11, 2024.