

**Public Hearing:**

Members of the Commission held a public hearing for two conservation easement (CE) projects in Conference Room 1 with the Select Board in attendance. Mr. Sam Demeritt opened the public hearing for the 15.5 acre Terninko parcel and for the eight (8) acre Rice/ Shippee-Rice parcel at 7:00 PM.

Additional Commission members in attendance were Cheryl Smith, Susan Mooney, Debra Kimball, Liz Kotowski and Raelene Shippee-Rice who sat down for the hearing. Mr. Dan Kern, Executive Director of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways (BPRG) Land Trust, was also in attendance to answer any questions directed to Bear-Paw.

Demeritt and Smith outlined the easement projects for the public and the Select Board. Smith distributed a chart of the three pending easements as of 1/8/18, which also included the Kennard parcel owned by the town. (It is anticipated that the Kennard project will be completed at a later date.) The handout included acreage, the amount of money to be distributed from the Conservation Fund, the estimated full value (without a CE) of each parcel, and the easement deed holders. Additional conservation values were also included. The Rice/Shippee-Rice CE will protect an additional 500 feet of frontage along the North River and abuts another CE property on Garland Road. The Terninko piece on Case Road will protect valuable agricultural soils and preserve almost 1300 feet of scenic road frontage. This additional piece will add to the previously protected lands owned by Mr. Terninko that include wooded uplands, high functioning vernal pools, and open habitat for the state listed New England Cottontail.

The total expenditure for the two easements would be \$66,395, leaving just over \$200,000 in the Conservation Fund for future easement projects.

Members of the Select Board were able to provide some background of the CE's that have been accomplished in Nottingham and thanked the residents for their generosity in gifting the loss of development value of the pieces, in whole or in part, for the protection of the town's natural resources. Mr. Kern answered a few questions about the role that BPRG assumed for these projects.

Mr. Demeritt closed the public hearing at 7:15 PM.

Immediately following, the Select Board voted to release \$66,395 from the Fund for these two easements.

Members of the Commission retired to Conference Room 2, to continue their scheduled meeting.

The Commission reconvened at 7:18 PM. Kristen Lamb was in attendance. Kotowski was seated for Paul Miliotis. Guests Mr. Kern and Dr. Dale Rice also attended.

**Announcements:**

The BPRG Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 27, 9:00 AM at the Hooksett Public Library. Mr. Michael Marchard, Supervisor of NH Fish and Game, Non-Game Division, will speak about endangered reptiles and amphibians in the state. After a potluck lunch, an afternoon walk is planned at the Great Marsh in Hooksett.

### **Easement Projects:**

Mr. Kern discussed the bill for the Kennard CE project and the projected public hearing to release monies from the Conservation Fund to pay the bills. It is anticipated that the public hearing will be scheduled with the Select Board as soon as possible.

He also discussed two new CE projects, one in the Quincy Pond area and the other along Route 4 that abuts land already in conservation. Additionally there is at least one other potential project still in exploratory stage. Members asked Mr. Kern what areas in Nottingham that BPRG held in highest conservation value. He noted all properties along the North River, and said that there were a number of additional funding sources available at the state and national level.

The members thanked Mr. Kern. He left at 7:50 PM.

### **Other:**

Members decided to schedule a workshop to review our strategic planning document.

The best date for most was January 29, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

We reviewed the two letters that Ronald Kennard had sent to BPRG about the history of the now town-owned family parcel along Kennard Road. There will be a warrant article for voters at Town Meeting to place this property into a conservation easement, as Mr. Kennard requested. Mooney read a draft of the warrant article and it was decided to include the following: "non-motorized recreation". It was moved by Smith and seconded by Kimball to approve the warrant article as written in order to place a conservation easement on the Kennard property. All six (6) votes were in favor. Mooney will forward the draft to the Town Administrator for review. In the next Newsletter submission Mooney will include that "an affirmative vote will fulfill the family's wishes to conserve a property that has been in the family since 1823".

Note: Shippee-Rice and Dr. Rice left at 8:07 PM.

### **Trails Committee:**

Kotowski reported out on the activities of the Trails Committee. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2018, at 6:30 PM. A walk on a potential trails project property will be scheduled for later in the month. Speakers from land trusts and neighboring communities that have active trails committees will be invited to

share their successes and make recommendations for us. Charlie Tatum of the Barrington Trails Committee has been invited to the February 1 meeting. The Commission decided to adopt a trails theme at the Nottingham Earth Day Festival scheduled for May 12.

Note: Kotowski left at 8:25.

**Bear-Paw Regional Greenways:** Demeritt announced that the Annual Breakfast in-the-Barn Fundraiser is scheduled for April 28 at the Kitz Farm in Strafford.

**Lamprey River Watershed Association (LRWA):** The meeting scheduled for earlier today (1-8-18) was cancelled.

### **Correspondence:**

- Intent To Cut: Map 38, Lots 34, 36, 38 & 40 located near to McCrillis Road. Of 104.75 acres, to cut 85. Members spent some time looking at the four lots on the property maps and discussed how the logger would have access to these land locked lots.
- Dated 12-6-17, received from Arianna Spear, Conservation Technician Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD), a conservation easement monitoring report for Brook Crossing housing development property along NH Route 4. The easement parcels total 53.33 acres. The report included photos. All points of easement compliance received favorable comment.
- Also received from RCCD, dated 12-19-17, conservation easement monitoring reports for the two Blaisdell parcels along Cielly (sic) Road in Nottingham. The two parcels, 73 acres and 57 acres, abut Pawtuckaway State Park. The report included photos and all points of easement compliance received favorable comment.
- Three Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) Workshops for grant cycle funding from 4:00 to 6:00 PM will be conducted in the area. Dates and locations not noted.
- The Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) sent along a request for dues. Because the Society has assisted Nottingham with significant conservation easement projects we decided to consider this request after the 2018 Annual Budget is approved at Town Meeting.

### **Conservation Easement Monitoring Reports for December:**

- Highlands was conducted on December 13 and 17 by Demeritt and Mooney. The original date for the 12<sup>th</sup> was postponed due to a pending storm; In general, (due to snow cover) the monitoring review was favorable and the report has been placed in the file.
- Mendums was conducted by Demeritt, Mooney, Kimball, Kotowski and Shippee-Rice, accompanied by Skip Small, Mendums Landing Association

President on December 16. The monitoring review was favorable and the report has been placed in the file.

- The Friend, Terninko and Kimball Family Forest easement monitoring walks were conducted prior to December and all received favorable reports.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Lamb to adjourn. All five (5) votes were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Mooney, Secretary

This is a draft document. These minutes were accepted as corrected at the meeting held on April 9, 2018.