

## NCC Minutes 4/19/21

Open meeting: 7:06 p.m.

Present: D. Mason, C. Griffith, J. Couture, C. Aldrich, F. Hayden, L. Hill. Guests- Lynn and Mark Girard, Duane Hyde from SELT

### 1) Administrative Business:

- a) Minutes 3/15/21- C. Griffith motions to accept as amended, D. Mason seconds, all in favor YES.
- b) Treasurer's report- J. Couture motions to accept, C. Griffith seconds, all in favor YES.

### 2) Old Business:

- a) Daley Easement- Letter was approved by Selectmen and needs to be signed. Owner has 30 days to respond.
- b) Piscassic Greenway- bond expires 8/15/2026
- c) Great Bay Stewards donation- Donated \$250 last year. J. Couture motions to contribute \$250, C. Griffith seconds, all in favor YES.
- d) Girard Easement- Lynn Girard discussing several issues
  - Signage to make people aware that they are passing through private property to access the Greenway. All agreed that this is allowed.
  - Posts holding the signs are rotting. They had the poison ivy removed and were wondering if NCC would replace if they paid for materials. J. Couture suggested they approach SELT.
  - They posted the easement property against hunting but this is against the terms of the easement which needs to be upheld. F. Hayden suggested they alter the signs to make hunters aware that there may be dogs and children in the woods.
  - Liability for the pond- NH law protects owners of easement properties.
  - Driveway and access to the Greenway- D.O.T. has stated that the existing driveway is actually illegal as the egress is not safe. They are also concerned with their children and dog's safety as SELT has been using it a lot in the last year. They have a permit and a proposed design. J. Couture asked who approved the new driveway and she replied that it has not yet been approved. They are working with SELT. They are offering to put the 1.8 acre excluded area into conservation in exchange for SELT paying for the cost of the driveway and paying an additional \$45,000. F. Hayden mentioned that the easement states that the 50 ft. access to the excluded area provided for, cannot be used for anything but a residence. What happens if this now becomes conservation land? J. Couture stated that the NCC needs to see what is involved in order to approve. Perhaps make it a separate easement. The Girards reiterated that the existing driveway is illegal so something has to be done. They actually did not realize that the town of Newfields owns the easement.
- e) Rugg property- Duane Hyde of SELT to discuss
  - He started by saying that this is very early in the process. There is a total of 176 acres- 114 in Newfields and 62 in Exeter. Do not yet know how much they would want to exclude but they would be ok with a parking area for access. They want to sell it outright, not hold an easement. -They are currently in court with the town of Exeter to resolve property lines and clear the title. Duane will meet with the Exeter Con. Comm.. He proposes that each town owns the property in their town.

(2)

- Funding options are LCHIP, D.E.S. Drinking Water Protection Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund. Applications would be submitted in 2022 and presented to town meeting possibly in 2023. J. Couture mentioned possibility of private contributions. D. Hyde said that we could try for “crowd sourced” funding but would probably make up only a small portion of what will be required. F. Hayden pointed out that there is a large community use and therefore, interest.

f) Proposed house on Tucker property in Newmarket- L. Hill asked D. Hyde how we should approach our objections. He stated that our biggest concern should be the lack of a gate at the end of Neal Mill Rd. potentially allowing motorized vehicles to access the Newfields Class A trails. L. Hill will draft a letter to the Newmarket Planning Board.

3) New Business:

J. Couture suggested we make a donation to SELT in appreciation for Duane’s help. L. Hill mentioned they are asking for donations to the Mathey Center as there is a matching fund offer. J. Couture motions we donate \$250 to SELT, F. Hayden seconds, all in favor YES.

4) Next meeting- 5/17/21

Adjourn 9:05 p.m.

NCC member L. Hill, 4/19/21