

NCC Minutes 1/15/24

Open meeting: 7:04 p.m.

Present: J. Couture, A. Watts, D. Mason, L. Hill, J. Lent, Sel. M. Kessler

Guests: Ellen Snyder, Selectman H. Harmon

1) Administrative Business:

- a) Minutes 12/19/24- J. Couture wants it to be clear that the low interest loan grant is separate from the LWCF grant. L. Hill will clarify. J. Couture motions to approve as amended, J. Lent seconds, all in favor YES.
- b) Treasurer's report- J. Couture motions to accept, A. Watts seconds, all in favor YES.

2) New Business:

- a) Town report- C. Griffith wrote a draft. J. Lent mentioned adding Chris' name to the people that monitored the Girard property. J. Couture motioned to submit with the edit, A. Watts seconded, all in favor YES.

3) Old Business:

- a) Destruction of the Beaver lodges and dams and subsequent draining of the wetland on the rail trail.
 - L. Hill emailed M. Weeks of NHTB to find out who did the actual work and did not get a real answer to the question except in his opinion it needed to be done. He denied that the old lodge was actually a beaver lodge when it most definitely was. There was no concern for the wetland destruction.
 - E. Snyder (a member of the Newmarket Con. Comm. and wildlife biologist) stated that she still has not received an answer to her letter to M. Weeks and is very concerned that he does not seem to worry about impacts to wildlife by work done on the trail. The timing of the destruction of the wetland was terrible considering this large wetland has threatened and endangered species.
 - She has contacted Fish and Game. They said that the destruction is allowed under some circumstances but the state statute says that it is not without notifying abutters, etc. No one has answered as to whether any of this was done.
 - L. Hill asked whether we could notify D.E.S.. E. Snyder replied that we should as they also dredged a large clump of wetland material.
 - A. Watts volunteered to draft a letter to D.E.S. and stated that this needs to be an ongoing issue.
 - E. Snyder suggested that we hold a work shop with Skip Lysle who builds the beaver deceivers, abutters and trails people.
- b) Wetlands violation at 29 Runaway-
 - H. Harmon- he walked the property with the landowner who is coming up with a remediation plan. The abutter also had some issues which they are rectifying.
 - J. Couture asked what the timeline is and H. Harmon said within 2 years. J. Couture asked what would happen if the property was sold and H. Harmon said the remediation goes with the property.
- c) Rugg-
 - J. Couture- Articles discussed at the deliberative session last week. Article 1 asks for fiscal support from the town. Article 4 asks for another review of the project to evaluate

financial impacts, etc.. This article is not supported by the landowner or all the people who have been working on the project.

- H. Harmon stated that there are things that need to be clarified such as what will happen if Exeter does not move forward. J. Couture replied that the deal will be off completely if Exeter does not participate.

- H. Harmon again stated that many questions need to be answered before approving. J. Couture replied the information has been available for months and Article 4 puts the whole project in jeopardy.

- H. Harmon said that he is supportive but has fiduciary responsibilities to the town.

- There is another informational meeting tomorrow night 1/16/24.

4) Mail

- Great Bay Matters
- News from SELT

5) Next meeting 2/19/24

Adjourn 7:40 p.m.

NCC member L. Hill, 1/15/24