

**Town of Nelson  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Public Hearing 2 of 2**

December 15, 2015

Executive Board Attending: David Upton, Susan Hansel, Maury Collins, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others attending: Kathy Schillemat, Tom Newcombe, David Patek, Rick Church and Anne McBride (Con. Com. Members) and Public Attendees

At 7:00 PM the meeting was opened by Chair David Upton.

David explained the legal requirement for the second public hearing and presented the Board's intention to accept \$300,000 from the Conservation Commission and to use the funds to purchase approximately 580 acres of land known as Osgood Hill, Hurd Hill and City Hill. This purchase would be made in accordance with the authority granted under RSA 41:14a. He then turned the meeting over to Kathy Schillemat, Chair of the Nelson Conservation Commission.

Kathy gave a brief presentation as an overview of the highlights from the first public hearing.

Kathy had prepared handouts for the audience to follow along as she presented estimates of projected costs of meeting the grant requirements and also future care and maintenance of the property.

Based on costs of a similar, but much larger, project in Stoddard the annual operating costs are estimated to be well under \$1,000. This figure could be further reduced by volunteer services and revenue from future timber cuts.

Questions from attendees remain focused on potential costs to the Towns as well as the loss of tax revenue.

The shared right-of-way over Homestead Lane and the annual cost of its maintenance remains an issue to be resolved by all parties who use this access.

There was a brief discussion of the ongoing work to finalize the terms of the Conservation Easement being developed in partnership with the Harris Center.

Kathy asked the audience for their thoughts on what they would like to see for permitted uses on the property.

(Hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, community gardens, camping, bird watching, horseback riding, sledding, star gazing etc.)

In response to a question about porta potties, Kathy explained the details of a "Chum Box"

As questions slowed, several attendees offered comments on the beauty of the property, fond memories from their childhood, and gratitude to the Conservation Commission for their work to make this project happen.

With nothing further the public hearing adjourned at approximately 8:13 PM

December 15, 2015

---

David Upton, Chair

---

Maury Collins, Selectman

---

Susan Hansel, Selectman