

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

December 2, 2015

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

Others attending: Public Attendance

At 7:04 PM the meeting was opened by Chair David Upton.

David explained the reason for the public hearing and informed the audience that 2 public hearings will be conducted at the same time and place (Notice Attached). He then turned the meeting over to Kathy Schillemat, Chair of the Nelson Conservation Commission.

**Public Notice
Town of Nelson, NH**

Notice is hereby given that the first of two Public Hearings will be held in accordance with RSA 675:7 and RSA 41:14-c per order of the Select Board of the Town of Nelson.

Date: Wednesday December 2, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Nelson Town Hall

The purpose of the hearing is to give notice to the public and interested parties of the intention of the Nelson Selectmen to accept \$300,000 in trust from the Nelson Conservation Commission and to carry out the conditions of the trust by purchasing the fee interest in property containing approximately 587 acres and known as Osgood Hill/Hurd Hill or City Hill and identified on Town of Nelson Tax Maps as: Map 403 Lot 36, Map 406 Lot 5, Map 406 Lot 1; the parcels being located south of Old Stoddard Road and northwest of Brickyard Road, in Nelson, New Hampshire. Included with the sale are access rights to the property via rights of way from Old Stoddard Road, north of the property, and from Brickyard Road, southeast of the property. The purchase price is Three Hundred Thousand Dollars.

The intended use of the property is for conservation and recreational purposes.

All persons interested in the proposed action and wishing to be heard concerning the matter will be recognized at the above place and time.

The Nelson Board of Selectmen

David Upton, Chair

Maury Collins

Susan Hansel

Public Notice
Town of Nelson, NH

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in accordance with RSA 675:7 per order of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Nelson.

Date: Wednesday December 2, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Nelson Town Hall

The purpose of the hearing is to give notice to the public and interested parties of the intended expenditure of Conservation Commission funds to be presented to the Nelson Board of Selectmen for the purpose of purchasing the fee interest in property containing approximately 587 acres and known as Osgood Hill/Hurd Hill or City Hill and identified on Town of Nelson Tax Maps as: Map 403 Lot 36, Map 406 Lot 5, Map 406 Lot 1; the parcels being located south of Old Stoddard Road and northwest of Brickyard Road, in Nelson, New Hampshire. Included with the sale are access rights to the property via rights of way from Old Stoddard Road, north of the property, and from Brickyard Road, southeast of the property. The purchase price is Three Hundred Thousand Dollars.

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Nelson Conservation Commission
Katharine Schillemat
Conservation Commission Chair

Kathy presented a brief history of the Conservation Commission's funding and past projects.

She then gave a detailed overview of the proposed Conservation/recreation project being developed in partnership with the Harris Center. Her presentation included possible future uses of the land for hiking, hunting, forestry, agriculture, grazing land, and natural wildlife habitat.

She spoke briefly about a substantial grant (\$150,000) to be awarded to the Town once the acquisition is finalized. Part of the grant requirements will be two parking lots complete with kiosks.

Kathy then asked Tom Newcombe to explain the payment process, funds currently available, and how the future grant funds will be received and used to continue the work of the Conservation Commission.

Tom explained that an article will be presented on the 2016 Town Meeting Warrant to open a new trust account to hold the unexpended funds. This will help to replenish some of the funds being used to invest in this project and to meet maintenance obligations.

Kathy then opened the meeting up to questions and comments from the audience.

Several people had questions and concerns about the loss of tax revenue, the percent of Nelson's overall land area that is in current use, conservation easement or exempt. Others wondered about the long term costs to the Town of maintaining the land and fulfilling the grant obligations, questioning how long the Conservation Commission funds will last. Other questions included concerns over liability, administrative costs, access rights of way, and impact to abutters.

A gentleman from Stoddard presented many positive reasons for encouraging communities to invest in Conservation land and to enjoy all the benefits available from projects like these.

A member of the Fire Department expressed concern over an increased need for response by emergency personnel and equipment.

There was also some concern that this is done without an opportunity for the public to vote on the project.

As questions slowed, Kathy announced that there will be another Public Hearing on December 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

With nothing further the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:34 PM

December 2, 2015

David Upton, Chair

Maury Collins, Selectman

Susan Hansel, Selectman