

Kensington Conservation Commission

Public Meeting September 29, 2023

Members Present: Robert Gustafson, Syd Goddard, Joan Skewes, Courtney Prenata, and Andy Roberts

Jeremy Lougee from SELT

No members of the public in attendance.

Sydnee Goddard called the meeting to order and opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m.

SELT is working with the towns of Exeter, Kensington and East Kingston to conserve 156 acres spanning the three towns along the northern edge of Great Brook which is a primary tributary to the Exeter River. Funding from the three towns in addition to the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund and a significant donation from the land owner would fund the project.

Chris Rider will continue to own the property. The Southeast Land Trust of NH will hold the conservation easement with the towns to Exeter, Kensington and East Kingston's Conservation Commission each holding as Executory Interest with the NH Department of Environmental Services holding a right of enforcement. SELT will be responsible for the long-term stewardship, monitoring and enforcement of the easement. Total projected costs are estimated at \$1,373,000. The Drinking Water grants providing \$525,000. Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership grant contributing \$15,000, the landowner agreeing to a \$530,000 reduction in purchase price, (known as a bargain sale).

East Kingston voted in favor of expending \$100,000 from their conservation fund. Exeter is voting Monday of expending \$100,000.

81 acres are in Kensington  
21 acres are in Exeter  
58 acres are in East Kingston

160 total, 4 acres of the 160 will be excluded.

Contributing \$103,000 to the project is 7.5% of the cost of the project.  
52% of the project is in Kensington.

A motion was made by Andy Roberts to expend \$103,000.00 of Kensington Conservation Funds to the conservation of property at Tax Map 16, Lots 4 and 5, owner Chris Rider, seconded by Robert Gustafson. All attending members voted in favor.

Jeremy indicated that East Kingston voted in favor and Exeter will be voting on Monday.

Joan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Andy Roberts. All in favor.