

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2008
Hopkinton Town Hall

Present: D. Owen, E. Leadbeater, J. Merrow, T. White

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM.

1. Minutes of October 21, 2008 meeting reviewed and approved.
2. Circulation and discussion of information contained in NH Local Government Center publication "Legal Q&A: Meeting Minutes 101". This document states that meeting minutes must be made available for public inspection within 5 business days after the meeting. They do not have to be formally approved. Notice of meetings must be placed in at least two prominent public places at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. The CC assumes the town will continue to ensure the notice requirement is met by posting meeting notices on the town web site and elsewhere. The CC secretary, when emailing the previous month's meeting minutes to the town, could request the town post notice of the next meeting.
3. Annual reports are due to the town January 5, and Lee and Ron will collaborate on preparing and submitting this report. Financial reports are due by January 16, which Jed will handle. Send to selectmen@tds.net.
4. Budget report: The Selectmen have recommended the CC budget be \$1 (one dollar) for 2009, rather than the CC's requested budget of \$1740. CC members noted that a cut in funds will reduce the CC's ability to carry out conservation projects and assist the town with either temporary or permanent funding for expenditures (such as the purchase of Houston Fields). CC members noted that the CC has always had a good working relationship with the Selectmen; has supported the Selectmen's projects and provided funding to facilitate certain town projects; and hopes to continue this positive working relationship. Given the CC's contributions to the Town, we respectfully request that the Selectboard and Budget Committee reconsider the proposed reduction of the 2009 CC budget.
5. Ransmeier property trail layout: Ron supervised a "ROPE" (Reaching Our Potential in Education) youth group from Concord in trail development. The CC approved the cost of FORECO's time (\$160) and materials (\$461.94) for the trail work. There are a number of tasks remaining to be done, but no immediate plans: kiosk, sign, complete and continue trail. Derek will inquire whether of Mr. Ransmeier if there are funds left from Rachael Johnson's estate to go towards maintenance of the Hawthorne Town Forest.

6. Ron described some issues on the Small parcel. He discussed it with state and remedial actions were taken. Ron is monitoring the situation.
7. Bohannon farm bank erosion is not working properly. Remedial action being considered by involved parties.

Next meeting 7:30 PM Dec. 16, 2008 at town hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. Thank you Erick for the delicious apple crisp, whipped cream, and cider!

Minutes by Jed Merrow filling in for Lee Wilder.