

Hopkinton Conservation Commission (HCC)
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2009
Kimball Cabins

Present: D. Owen, E. Leadbeater, T. White, J. Merrow, T. Aubertin, R. Klemarczyk, B. Carr, and Will Hastings (Hopkinton High School student)

Meeting called to order at 7:37 PM.

1. Minutes of March 19, 2009 approved.
2. Funding is available from the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund for Merrimack River watershed.
3. Price property: Reviewed NHDES's letter reaffirming their previous decision and conditions (i.e., cofferdam) regarding the Price property bank repairs on the Contoocook River.
4. Town culvert work: Reviewed "after the fact" Dredge and Fill Application notice regarding Town of Hopkinton work to address flooding on Old Hooksett Turnpike by installing a larger culvert. Derek has seen the culvert and did not see any problems with it.
5. Audubon Society's Phil Brown called and wants to come and discuss town land near Chase Sanctuary.
6. Community Garden idea: Greener Hopkinton group wants to establish a community garden in town. Ideas for locations discussed: behind Villager? Behind St. Paul's? HCC approves of the concept. Ron would like to see a master plan for the property before plots are established. Byron asked if the HCC would be interested in purchasing land along the river for the garden. The HCC is interested in preserving river frontage, but not sure if it would commit funding to a community garden.
7. Reptile and amphibian video discussed. Jed Merrow made a motion to purchase 3 copies, 1 for each of the school libraries. E. Leadbeater seconded the motion and proposed an amendment to add a copy for the town library. Amendment unanimously approved. Motion unanimously approved. Jed will process order. Tim White will make labels saying the videos were donated by the HCC.
8. Monthly budget: Jed will try to determine why the interest income is so much lower than last year's. (Email previously sent to Bob Blanchette.)
9. Erick noted that the legislature has enacted enabling legislation allowing establishment of town agricultural commissions. HCC supports the concept.
10. Culvert inventory: Jed will review the Effingham inventory and bring it to the next meeting for discussion. Ron suggested bringing in a USGS map and reviewing possible culverts/streams at the next meeting.
11. Town trail map: Tim presented examples from other towns. Jed will bring the Natural Resources Inventory maps next time and we will discuss which trails to map.

12. Public land inventory: Public lands were recently inventoried, the HCC provided feedback to the Selectboard on parcels to retain. No further effort is needed at this time.
13. Kast Hill lot: Todd had discussions with Hermie regarding areas to avoid. Hermie is using portions of the lot.
14. Irish Hill Road parcel: There is a proposal to add 3 acres into current use as "unproductive land". Ron reviewed the site and determined it does not meet the criteria for unproductive land, but otherwise qualifies as current use land.
15. Brockway Road two-lot subdivision: Byron relayed concerns regarding the length of the driveway and proposed house locations. Ron looked at the site and said wetlands have been flagged and avoided.
16. Plasma waste processing facility: There was discussion of this proposal, which would involve processing waste at very high temperatures and producing electricity. The HCC has concerns about impacts to the Cold River and wetlands. The HCC believes there should be a master plan for the proposal, and there should be input from the Contoocook River Advisory Committee, Planning Board, etc. Further information on the technology and impacts is needed. The HCC would like to be kept informed on any developments regarding this proposal.
17. Ron contacted a vegetation management specialist regarding knotweed at the Hawthorne Town Forest. (Ron later distributed copies of the proposal.) The proposal calls for initial and follow-up treatments with complete eradication. It sounds thorough and the cost (\$450) seems very reasonable. A motion to accept the proposal pending review by the HCC members was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
18. Ron informed the HCC of a landowner interested in a conservation easement. The parcel has high conservation and open space value. The appraisal cost of approximately \$7,500 would be paid by the HCC, until reimbursement following purchase of the easement.
19. Tim discussed recycling committee activities, including pay-per-bag and a satellite transfer facility.
20. Hopkinton High School student Will Hastings attended at the invitation of the HCC. The HCC is interested in naming Will an alternate HCC member. Derek will look into the requirements (such as minimum age). Will's contact info:
188 Amesbury Road
Contoocook NH 03229
guitarkiddie@gmail.com
746-2098

Next meeting: 7:30 PM Tuesday May 19, 2009 at Kimball Cabins
Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.
Minutes by Jed Mellow for secretary Lee Wilder
Thanks Todd for brownies