

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
October 15, 2013 Meeting
At Town Hall 1900 EDT

MINUTES

Present were: Lee Wilder, Rob Knight, Erick Leadbeater, Ron Klemarczyk, Doug Giles, Jed Merrow and alternates Bob LaPree and Bethann McCarthy.

Guests present: Jacob Killam and family and HHS representatives; Tim Blagdon re Warner Rail Trail

Meeting was called to order at 7:12 EDT by chairperson, Lee Wilder.

OLD BUSINESS

1. HCC 2013 Conservation Camper, Jacob Killam, reported that the camp was a very positive experience.
2. Tim Blagdon presented information about his effort to create a rail-trail from Concord to Sunapee on the old Concord to Claremont rail line. Tim is setting up a 501(c)3 and working with the towns along the route. An anonymous donor has given \$100,000 to be used for grants for pedestrian/bicycle improvements in NH. HCC has made a preliminary grant application for work on the Stevens Rail Trail. We will know soon if we are invited to make a formal grant application. HCC supports the effort to create a rail trail. Bob Lapree will be our contact person.
3. Corrected minutes of 09/17/13 were accepted as presented.
4. Treasurer's report as of 9/30/13 was accepted as presented. Jed will check with Lucia Kitteredge as to the status of the sponsorships for the Greenway. Only \$200 is shown as being received.
5. Jed will make a HCC Budget Request to the selectmen at 6:45 on October 28. Jed presented a spreadsheet showing HCC expenditures in past years and a draft budget. More money should be included for attending events. Jed will revise the budget request and email it to HCC members for approval.
6. Culvert Data and Report has been reviewed by committee members and Jed will take the comments and revise the report for presentation at the next meeting.
7. Ron will wait until the Culvert report is done to speak with Ron Thayer, road agent, re possible "problem culverts".
8. Trail subcommittee update:
 - a. Lee reports that the Greenway Trail is getting a lot of use. Lee plans to send a letter to the Monitor thanking the volunteers who worked on the trail, and will get a list of the volunteers from Lucia.
 - b. Trail Ordinance: Ron got committee feedback and will redraft the ordinance, circulate it to the HCC and then submit to the selectmen for adoption.
 - c. Stevens Rail Trail Grant: Bob has submitted a \$8,250 grant proposal to harden 470' and 370' of the Stevens Rail Trail with crushed stone and add a kiosk and rail fence at the entrance.
 - d. Brockway bridge: Ron sent NH Audubon three different proposals for replacing the bridge using funds from the trust fund held by Audubon. He is waiting for a response from Hilary Chapman.
 - e. Drainage issues on the New Road (partially collapsed stone culvert), Ransmeier field entrance (needs second culvert) and the Hawthorne Forest (existing culvert is causing trail flooding during heavy rains). Ron will get estimate to put in new culverts.
 - f. Trail upkeep: Lee wants to be sure the public is involved with trail upkeep and there should be a link on the website to report trail maintenance issues.
 - g. Rob reports that he has lined up a scout to do a kiosk at Kimball Cabins in the spring.

9. Hopkinton Conservation Boundary Markers on Town Conservation Lots. Rob has only had time to put them up at trail connections. Plan is to place them along roads, at property corners, and entrances to town conservation lands. Lee suggested that it is a two person job and that there will need to be teams from the HCC to mark all the properties.
10. Town's HCC website update. Approved payment for the excellent work. Doug will check on how he can access website for updates, etc.
11. Rick reported that some spraying of invasive species has been done at Ransmeier. It is getting late to do more spraying, and further work may need to be tabled until spring.
12. Ron reports that Chuck Rose has not started the erosion control at Rollins lot.
13. Wildlife habitat identification and mapping project. Jed found that there would be no cost to the town, and time involvement would be an initial 1.5 hour meeting to learn what could be done and get our feedback on what we want, and then a couple of 30 minute meetings to present the results. Jed will setup the initial meeting and invite the Open Space Committee, Selectmen, and Planning Board as well as HCC members.
14. Tabled: Possibly extending the sidewalk along southside of Main Street HV from its present terminus to where the Greenway Trail exits Hawthorne Forest. (Cleve)
15. Kimball Lake Property Study Committee: Derek Own will be an advisor on the committee and Lee will be the HCC representative. The committee will meet with the selectmen soon. Plan should include a location for the trailhead kiosk and possibly a sign on the road.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Open Space committee met with a landowner with property that was targeted for protection on the OSC priority list because it is scenic, prime agricultural land, has river frontage, and is near protected land. Owners are interested in selling. Dijit Taylor will get estimates for appraising the land.
2. HCC owes half the \$2,200 appraisal cost for the Holmes lot on South Road. Lee will investigate where the appraisal and bill are.
3. Lee reported on his discussion with Neal Cass on the NH Right to Know Law. HCC committee members should go to the website and become familiar with the requirements:
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-VI-91-A.htm>
4. Lee handed out updated HCC member contact list.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 EDT. Thanks to Rob for seasonal treats.

The next HCC Meeting is scheduled for November 19 at 1900 EST at Town Hall. Ron is host.