

Hopkinton Conservation Commission  
November 19, 2013 Meeting  
Held at Town Hall - 7:00PM

### Minutes

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 by chairperson, Lee Wilder.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the 10/15/13 meeting were accepted as presented by Rob Knight.
2. Treasurer's report for October was presented by Jed Merrow. October 1 the town received an additional \$400 in contributions for the Greenway Trail, making the total \$600. Among the expenses paid in October was \$3330 to Foreco for materials for the bridges on the Greenway Trail. Lee Wilder reminded the committee that all expenses should be approved by the HCC in advance, even if it is necessary to do so by email exchange. The Treasurer's report was accepted.
3. HCC annual budget request of \$1,550 was not accepted by the Selectmen, and the HCC budget remains at \$1. Discussion followed: having no budget forces the HCC to use Conservation Fund money to pay expenses which is not really the purpose of the Conservation Fund, but apparently this is how the Selectmen want the HCC to pay its expenses.
4. Town meeting reports: Ron Klemarczyk will prepare the HCC annual report, and Jed Merrow will prepare the Treasurer's report.
5. Bills were approved for payment, including \$4,600 from the Town Forest account to Chuck Rose for work on the Ransmeier parking lot and surfacing on the Stevens Rail Trail.
6. Culvert Data and Report: Jed Merrow is incorporating the comments into the report and is almost finished. Bethann McCarthy will assist in proofing the report. Copies of the completed report should be given to the HCC, Ron Thayer (Road Agent), NH Fish and Game, and the town office.
7. Ron Klemarczyk will meet with Ron Thayer, Road Agent, to discuss problem culverts as soon as the report is done.
8. Trails subcommittee update:
  - a. Lee Wilder is working with Lucia Kittredge to prepare a box ad for the Monitor thanking contributors to the Greenway Trail.
  - b. Revisions to the draft trail ordinance are OK, and Ron Klemarczyk will submit it to Neal Cass for approval by the Selectmen.
  - c. The replacement bridge at Brockway will not be constructed until spring. NH Audubon will pay for the work.
  - d. Drainage issues were discussed: The work at Ransmeier parking lot has been done. Agreed to pay Chuck Rose \$1,500 to install two 20" culverts, one at the dam at Hawthorne Forest and one (with gravel) at New Road. The work at Hawthorne will be paid for with funds from the Town Forest account, and at New Road from the Conservation Fund. Drainage work at the entrance to

Ransmeier will be discussed with Brad Watson (who hays the field) before a plan is decided upon.

- e. HCC website now has a link to send in comments, but address should be changed so comments go to town hall. Doug Giles will have it fixed.
  - f. Larry Chase from the Andover CC wants to learn how we did the Greenway. Rob Knight and Lucia Kittredge will meet with him.
  - g. Kimball Lake Study Committee has met and will meet again 11/20/13. A question has arisen as to whether the mail box for maps is still used. After discussion, HCC decided the map box and remains of interpretive sign posts should be removed. Bob LaPree will notify the Rec Dept and remove them.
  - h. Rob Knight arranged for Boy Scouts to drag the cut brush away from the Greenway at Aqueduct Lot and Ransmeier connector. Lee Wilder will send them a letter of thanks.
9. Tim Blagdon from the Concord-Sunapee rail trail has requested that the HCC send a letter of support to the DOT. Approved Bob LaPree sending a letter on behalf of the Conservation Commission.
  10. Boundary markers on Town conservation lots: Rob Knight will get to it once his fall monitoring duties are completed.
  11. HCC website: Doug Giles is still working on getting access so he can make updates.
  12. Erosion control at Rollins Lot: Ron Klemarczyk reported that Chuck Rose will do it the same time he is doing the culverts.
  13. Wildlife habitat identification and mapping project: Jed Merrow said he is a little disappointed that the Extension Service does not do more, but he still feels it is a worthwhile project. Perhaps the regional planning commission might do GIS maps for us, but we would probably have to pay for it. Jed will finish the culvert project before working on the wildlife mapping.
  14. Cleve Kapala talked to town officials about extending the sidewalk along Main Street to where the Greenway Trail exits Hawthorne Forest. Sidewalks are extremely expensive and it is unlikely the town or state would do a sidewalk. There is not much current possibility of moving the trail off Main Street, since a key landowner is not interested in a trail agreement with the town. Cleve also is investigating crosswalks or signage at trail crossings. And better control of invasives growing over the edge of the highways, forcing walkers into the road.
  15. Lee Wilder said that the Kimball Lake Study Committee wants HCC input on the cabins. Would the HCC use them for meetings in warm weather? Or take on responsibility for a cabin? Discussed that there are many available meeting venues in town. Is this something that would be approved at town meeting with a budget? Need more information on costs and labor requirements before the HCC could consider adopting a cabin.
  16. Hunting at Brockway Forest: Ron Klemarczyk reported that it is not permitted at the request of the property donor and since it is an Audubon wildlife preserve. However the "No Hunting" signs have disappeared. Other no hunting properties are: Hawthorne Forest (too much use and too close to housing developments); Kimball Lake (too close to school); Beyers Tract (abuts nature preserve). Ron has asked Neal Cass to post at town hall a list of properties closed to hunting. Lee Wilder will ask NH Audubon to post

Brockway Forest since they manage the property and will contact the abutter who was concerned about the hunting problem and let them know of the pending posting.

17. HCC went into executive session to receive the report from the Open Space Committee since it pertained to property acquisition. Authorized the OSC to arrange a restricted use appraisal at a cost of \$800 up to \$1,000 on a property in which the OSC is interested. The cost of the appraisal would be reimbursed as part of the transaction if the property is acquired by the town. Lee Wilder abstained. HCC has received another restricted use appraisal pertaining to a South Road property, which was partly paid for by neighbors to the property. The neighbors will use the appraisal to discuss a conservation purchase with the property landowner. HCC went out of executive session.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. HCC received notice that DES has approved rehabilitation of the dam at Kimball Lake by the Town DPW. Lee Wilder signed off on the work.
2. Ron Klemarczyk has become aware of a homeowner doing construction work near a wetland. Ron was authorized to meet with Neal Cass and discuss the issue in an effort to head off a wetlands protection act violation. State has enforcement authority.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

The next HCC meeting is scheduled for December 17 at 7:00PM at the town hall. Cleve is host.