

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
January 21, 2014 Meeting
Held at Town Hall - 7:00PM

Draft Minutes

Present: Lee Wilder, Rob Knight, Erick Leadbeater, Ron Klemarczyk, Jed Merrow, Cleve Kapala and Bethann McCarthy

Visitors: Hilary Chapman, Phil Brown from NH Audubon.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by chairperson, Lee Wilder.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **NH Audubon:** Hilary Chapman from HN Audubon asked for feedback on a draft MOU for Brockway Preserve. Most HCC members had not had an opportunity to review the MOU. Hilary will resend the MOU for review and the HCC will do an email vote on whether to accept the MOU. The Lee Wilder will then give it to Neal Cass for review and a decision on who will sign it on behalf of the town.
Lee Wilder said a priority is getting "No Hunting" signs up and felt it was a safety issue. Phil Brown agreed NH Audubon would post signs.
Bridge work is needed at the dam, at a second brook, and perhaps at a very small third crossing. Audubon has funds for this work. Phil asked about volunteer labor. Cleve Kapala will contact Mary Harb at the Interact Club to see if this was something they could help with.
Phil and Hilary will come to the next HCC meeting to sign the MOU and discuss management of Smith Pond Bog and Chase sanctuaries.
Phil asked how the Beyer conservation easement is coming. Rob Knight will check on it.
2. **Minutes** of the 11/19/13 meeting were accepted by an email vote in December and sent to the town office for posting.
3. **Treasurer's report** for December was presented by Jed Merrow. A correction to the allocation of the Greenway expenses was made. The Treasurer's report was accepted. Agreed to reimburse Natalie Duval \$59 for caution signs for the Greenway.
4. **HCC report for the town's annual report** has been submitted by Ron Klemarczyk.
5. **Culvert Data and Report:** Jed Merrow has finished the report. Ron Klemarczyk showed it to the road agent John Thayer, who appreciated getting the information. Lee Wilder asked that a copy of the report be sent to the Planning Board.
6. **Master Plan Update:** Ron Klemarczyk reported that the town is working on a Master Plan update. HCC should review the conservation section. Bethann McCarthy volunteered to review the conservation section and report back what needs to be done.
7. **Trails subcommittee update:**
 - a. Lee Wilder appointed Ron Klemarczyk and Bob LaPree to the Trails Subcommittee. Membership now consists of Lucia Kittredge (Chair), Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, Bob LaPree and Ron Klemarczyk.
 - b. Subcommittee minutes should be filed with the town. Rob Knight will take care of it for the last meeting.
 - c. Lee Wilder sent a letter to the Monitor thanking contributors to the Greenway Trail.

- d. Ron Klemarczyk needs to send the draft trail ordinance to Neal Cass for approval by the Selectmen.
 - e. Drainage work at Hawthorne Forest and New Road by Chuck Rose has been postponed until spring, as well as erosion control at Rollins.
 - f. Trail steward program was presented by Rob Knight, who will implement it.
 - g. Five people from the Andover CC and community met with Rob Knight and Lucia Kittredge to learn how we did the Greenway.
 - h. Waiting for an update from Bob LaPree on the status of the map box and remains of interpretive sign posts at Kimball Lake, and results of his discussion with the Rec Dept.
 - i. It is unclear whether we sent the NH DOT a letter of support for the Concord to Sunapee rail trail. Cleve Kapala will check on it.
8. **Kimball Lake Study Committee:** Lee Wilder reported that the committee met with the selectmen 1/13/14. They have researched the history of the cabins and area. The cabins have been checked by contractors and are structurally sound.
 There is a protruding 70' x 70' area that is part of Lot #2 in the subdivision and is across the road at Kimball Cabins. The area has a storage trailer and an abandoned well on it. Lot #2 apparently has the right to gate the access road. Lee Wilder will investigate the possibility of the town acquiring this 70 x 70 area.
 Lee Wilder and Ron Klemarczyk will review the Shoreline Protection Act to see what trees and bushes can be cut at Kimball Cabins.
 The location of the trailhead kiosk will have to be part of the plan for Kimball Cabins.
9. **Boundary markers on Town conservation lots:** Rob Knight should do Brockway Preserve and Carson next.
10. **Greenway Trail road crossings:** Cleve Kapala has done more research on safety where the Greenway is on state highways. The Greenway is legally a municipal trail as defined on the DOT website. Cleve has talked to Larry Keniston who is the coordinator for the DOT pedestrian and bike program. The HCC can buy trail crossing signs and place them on the highway. The DOT is OK with cross walks if the town requests them. DOT will use a herbicide on the Japanese knotweed growing into the road if it is requested. Cleve should continue to pursue options with the DOT. Bring cost of warning signs to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Community Garden space:** Bethann McCarthy asked about possible alternative locations for community gardens. Greener Hopkinton is exploring options in case the group decides to use town property in the future. Near the library or the Ransmeier field were suggested as possible options.
2. **Payment for an OSC appraisal:** Discussed a request from the Open Space Committee to authorize an appraisal on a parcel of land near the Bohanan Farm. The request was approved.
3. **Warner River scenic designation:** Agreed to support the designation. Cleve Kapala will draft the letter of support and Lee Wilder will sign it on behalf of the HCC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07.

The next HCC meeting is scheduled for February 18 at 7:00PM at the town hall.

Doug Giles is host.