

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
November 18, 2014 Meeting
Held at Town Hall - 7:00PM

Minutes – Accepted 12/16/14

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Erick Leadbeater, and alternate Bob LaPree.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Minutes from October 21 meeting were approved.
2. Treasurer's report was not presented, in the absence of the Treasurer. However Jed Merrow sent a message that the stumpage checks had not been deposited in October.
3. Brockway Nature Preserve:
 - A. Lee Wilder and Rob Knight talked to abutter Richard Eichhorn, and then moved the "Conservation Land" sign to the corner of town property.
 - B. Lee Wilder reported that due to flooding under Farrington Corner Road and the Town's potential liability as owner of the dam, the highway department is taking steps to manage the beavers. Discussed neighbors' concerns and alternative ways to remedy the situation.
4. Trails Committee Report:
 - A. The trail hike on Sunday was well attended, with 45 hikers. Drainage work on First Parsonage Trail is done and seems to be working. Ron Klemarczyk put in two bridges over the run-off ditches, and presented bills for materials for the bridges at First Parsonage and Hawthorne Forest totaling \$472.01. Payment from the Town Forest account was approved.

7:45 Cleve Kapala joined the meeting.

- B. A productive trails meeting was held with some of the local horseback riders. Trails Committee members and horse people cleared a trail for horses to go through the Aqueduct Lot to access Old Putney Hill Road.
 - C. Eagle Scout candidate, Eric Hauschild: Lee Wilder will suggest that he contact Phil Brown at NH Audubon regarding potential Eagle Scout projects.
5. Kimball Lake Cabins: Lee Wilder reported that the porch railings and steps for cabin #1 have been replaced. Jeff Dearborn said he will help drop the dead pine trees this winter. Lee is trying to organize a HCC work party to cut brush blocking views of the cabins.
6. Dustin Conservation Easement: Closing is scheduled for Thursday, 11/20. Approved the following payments:
 - To the Dustins: \$106,000, being payment of \$108,000 for the conservation easement less \$2,000 reimbursed by the Dustins toward the cost of the survey.
 - R.D. Bartlett: \$6,585 for the property survey.
 - Ron Klemarczyk: \$118.49 reimbursement for the recording fees for the surveys and boundary line agreement.

7. Beyer Conservation Easement: Rob Knight reported that Dijit Taylor will call Mike Bartlett at NH Audubon to ascertain Audubon's intentions.
8. Timber Sale: Ron Klemarczyk presented an accounting of the timber sales on Beyers, Etta Townes, and Aqueduct lots, showing that the Forestry Fund will net \$23,751 from the timber harvests.
9. Maintenance Work on conservation properties: Ron Klemarczyk reported the culvert has been installed on New Road; a drainage channel has been dug on the dam at Hawthorne Forest and he intends to put a bridge over it this weekend. The erosion control at the Rollins Lot cannot be done until the ground firms up. Rollins will need to be mowed.
10. Bohanan Outlot: Rob Knight reported that the town's title is not clear and he is continuing to research ownership of the lot. Discussed the alternative of the Conservation Commission buying the lot and keeping it as a town property.
11. Rachel Johnson lot encroachment: Lee Wilder reported that the abutter will remove the brush piled on town property.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Conservation Easement Monitoring: Lee Wilder was authorized to contact SPNHF to arrange that they annually monitor two SPNHF properties in Hopkinton (Rose and Janeway) rather than the town doing the monitoring since the town has a conflict of interest.
2. Routine Stewardship and Maintenance of town conservation and forest lands: Cleve Kapala asked that we research expenses for the past three years so we have a sense of what stewardship of our properties cost us, e.g. mowing, invasives control, bridge replacements, etc. Ron Klemarczyk said that there are things we have not been doing, like painting boundary lines. And other things have been done by volunteers.
3. Change of Use Tax: Bob LaPree presented his research showing Change of Use Tax allocation percentages in different town, and it appears that Hopkinton's 35% allocation is comparatively low. Cleve Kapala will investigate the possibility of asking the town meeting to increase the percentage allocated to the conservation commission.
4. Runoff Problem on Old Stagecoach Road: Ron Klemarczyk looked and confirmed that it is a problem. Authorized Rob Knight to contact Neal Cass and ask that he coordinate with the highway department to ameliorate the drainage issues.
5. Payment of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions dues of \$303 for 2015 was authorized.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 16 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

Doug is the host.