

Hopkinton Conservation Commission  
September 16, 2014 Meeting  
Held at Town Hall - 7:00PM

### Minutes – Approved 10/21/14

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Doug Giles, Cleve Kapala, Rob Knight, Erick Leadbeater, Jed Mellow, and alternate Bob LaPree.

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

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Student Conservation Camper, Alin Leeming, gave a presentation on programs he attended at Camp Berry in Berlin. He reported it was a very positive experience and he intends to attend again next year.
2. Aaron Wechsler of Aspen Environmental Consultants in Henniker reported on work being done on property owned by Jack McDevitt on Rte 103 opposite the police station (former B. Foster property). An ‘after the fact’ wetland permit application was filed with DES. 124,000 SF of area was disturbed, and so Aspen Environmental is in the process of submitting an Alteration of Terrain application to DES. Mr. Wechsler reports that a neighbor feels more runoff water is being directed onto their property than before, although Mr. Wechsler disputes this. Mr. Wechsler left a preliminary site map and photos.
3. Minutes from June 16 and August 19 meetings were approved as written.
4. Treasurer’s report through 9/5/14 was accepted.
5. Brockway Nature Preserve:
  - A. Lee made a site visit with Hilary Chapman, Phil Brown, and other staff from NH Audubon. Audubon is concerned with the bridge, and it was agreed that Audubon would build access ramps to the existing bridge. That work has been done.
  - B. A neighbor, Richard Eichhorn, has complained to the town office that a “Conservation Land” sign was posted on his property. Lee will contact Mr. Eichhorn to make a visit with Rob and move any misplaced sign(s).
  - C. Audubon has prepared new Visitor Guideline signs. Lee will work with Audubon to post the signs. Rob will post the sign at the Lower Straw Road entrance to Brockway.
  - D. Steve Walker inspected the Brockway property on behalf of LCIP and is concerned about the beaver dam. Lee checked with DES Dam Bureau, and the old breached dam behind the beaver dam is a listed dam belonging to the Town of Hopkinton. Thus the town is responsible for any damage caused by the dam. Voted to have Lee work with Fish and Game to remove the beavers, provided Ron does not find anything in the property deed forbidding animal control.
6. Trails Committee Report: The Selectmen signed the trail agreement with the Luneaus, and gave permission to clean up First Parsonage Road (Class VI road) to make it suitable for public pedestrian use. The main issue with the road is water control at the lower end.
7. Kimball Lake Cabins Study Committee: Lee has written a HCC letter of support for saving the cabins. Fund raising is going slowly. Lee will plan a HCC work day later in the fall to cut limbs along the shore, which will make the cabins more visible.

8. Conservation Land Boundary markers: Rob will complete marking Brockway, including moving any misplaced signs.
9. Greenway road crossing at Hopkinton Road: No report.
10. Report from Open Space Committee: There will be a Select Board hearing 9/22 at 6:00 regarding the possible acquisition of a conservation easement on Dustin property abutting Bohanan Farm. Lee asked that HCC members attend. The OSC is working with Five Rivers to finish the conservation easement deed. The survey by Bartlett is in progress. Jed has done a wetlands assessment report.
11. Warner Scenic River initiative: Doug reported that CNHRPC is working to get grants to cover the costs.
12. Beyer Conservation Easement: Rob reported that Audubon has not completed their review of the conservation easement deed, despite several reminders.
13. Bohanan Outlot: Rob reported that the conservation deed is done and there should be a closing in the next few weeks. HCC signed a voucher for \$10,000 to cover Five Rivers' stewardship contribution and fees, per the agreement with Five Rivers.
14. Timber Sale on Beyer and Townes Lots: Ron reported that preparations for the timber harvest are moving along.
15. Culvert installations on New Road, Hawthorne Forest and the erosion control at the Rollins Lot: Ron may combine this work with the work needed on First Parsonage Road.
16. Invasives Control: Erick finally heard back from Stacey Luke at Merrimack County and she will have a report soon.
17. Electro-fishing by NHF&G: Jed reported that John Magee from Fish and Game came out in July and sampled several streams with volunteers from HCC. Found brook trout in Dolf Brook. Several other streams had warm water species. Jed will ask John Thayer at the highway department to keep Jed up to date on plans to replace culverts. Jed will get a copy of Magee's report and the HCC will file it as a baseline for streams sampled.
18. Update information on conservation lands for GRANIT: Ron found all protected lands are on the GRANIT map. The Rail trail is not protected and thus is not on the map.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Steve Walker inspected the Johnson property (Hawthorne Forest) on behalf of LCIP and is concerned about a well without a cover, and brush piled on the property by an abutter. Well cover to be discussed at the next meeting. Lee will talk to Neal re abutter and location of brush piles.
2. Several HCC bat houses at Harold Martin playground were taken down during logging. Steve Chamberlain will arrange for them to be put back up.
3. Jed has been asked to submit a HCC budget to the town.
4. Rollins lot infringement: Rob reported that Five Rivers discovered brush removal and tree cutting had been done, apparently by an abutter. Rob has prepared a letter for Neal Cass to send to the neighbor. Lee will review the letter and forward it to Neal Cass.
5. DES has issued a shoreline permit for 174 Clement Road.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 21 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

Ron is host.