

Hopkinton Conservation Commission  
June 17, 2014 Meeting  
Held at Town Hall - 7:00PM

### **APPROVED (091614) Minutes**

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Doug Giles, Cleve Kapala, Rob Knight, Erick Leadbeater, and alternate Bob LaPree. Jed Merrow arrived in time for New Business. Guests present: none

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Chairperson Lee Wilder.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. NH Audubon re Brockway MOU: Lee will bring the signed MOU and the Certificate of Liability to the town offices to be filed. Signage for the Brockway Preserve is ready to be put up. Ron will assist Hilary Chapman from Audubon in placing the signs when they are working on the bridge.
2. Minutes of 5/20/14 meeting were approved.
3. Treasurer's report: No report this month.
4. Trails Committee Update:
  - Trails Committee 6/9/14 meeting minutes were accepted as presented, and Lee will submit them to the town office.
  - Cleve reported he, Rob, and Bob have started cutting the trail from the Greenway to Putney Hill Road, with the assistance of volunteers Dave Luneau and Nate Sanel. He expects to complete the cutting on Thursday.
  - Ron recommended that a timber improvement cut be done on the Aqueduct Lot as soon as possible, which would also include a small view cut on the west side of the property, and a trailhead at Old Putney Hill Road. Once this is done the hiking trail would be rerouted to take advantage of the view cut. The work cannot be done in the winter because of poor access via Old Putney Hill Road. Ron suggested because of the small scope of the work that the work be done by the same logger who will be logging two other lots for the town, with a target completion date of November. These recommendations were approved by the committee, subject to confirmation by Neal Cass that **additional** bidding the work is not necessary **for the small amount of additional cutting on the Aqueduct Lot. (See item #12 below.)**
5. Kimball Lake Cabins Study Committee:
  - Lee reported that plans for Phase I and II were presented to the Select Board 5/19, and the Select Board dissolved the Study Committee and plans to establish a new Kimball Lake Cabin supervisory committee with the same membership. The work will be funded through donations to a town 501(c) 3. ~~The Select Board has not yet appointed membership in~~ **To date** the new committee **has not been set up.**

- Erick reported that the historic horseshoe pile at Kimball Lake is much diminished from what was there, and the current fence is not protecting it. Erick will research attractive fence options **in consultation with the Kimball Lake Cabin committee**.
  - The kiosk is finished and will be installed by the end of the month. Bob reported his plans for the printed material in the kiosk. He will get a combination lock for this kiosk and the one at Bohanan Farm.
6. Boundary markers: Rob reported that he has installed HCC signs along Farrington Corner Road for the Brockway and Carson parcels. It took 13 signs, or approximately one every 180'. HCC members are requested to check out the signs and let Rob know if that is the appropriate spacing.
  7. Greenway road crossing at Hopkinton Road: Cleve reports that the DOT has not been responsive to calls. The knotweed may be more of a problem at this point.
  8. Report from Open Space Committee: Ron reports that the two appraisals are back and were discussed with the Select Board June 16 in executive session. The OSC has not yet approached the landowners. Bob described another possible land acquisition. Some concern was expressed about paying for more appraisals before we get results from appraisals that have already been made.
  9. Hopkinton Student Conservation Camp: Erick reported that arrangements are all in place for student Leeming to attend the camp. Erick will make a follow-up call to the camper when the time gets closer.
  10. Warner Scenic River initiative: Doug is waiting to hear back from Nancy Martin.
  11. Beyer Conservation Easement: Rob reports that it is being reviewed by Audubon, and Phil Brown said he would have it back to the town next week. Audubon wants to walk the bounds with someone from the HCC before the easement is signed. Rob will do that sometime after July 14.
  12. Timber Sale on Beyer and Townes Lots: Ron has received bids for the timber sale and creation of a parking lot and trailhead at Beyer. The high bidder was Hopkinton Forestry and Land Clearing. Work to be done by November. **(See item #4 above.)** The HCC accepted the high bid. Ron abstained.
  13. Culvert installations on New Road, Hawthorne Forest and the erosion control at the Rollins Lot: Ron will follow-up with Chuck Rose to get the work done. Instead of a culvert at Hawthorne, a cut will be made in the dam.
  14. Bob French letter of appreciation: HCC members added their signatures to the Select Board signatures on a letter of congratulations drafted by Cleve. The New Hampshire Tree Farm Committee named Robert French the 2014 New Hampshire Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

15. Invasives Control: Ransmeier lot was done last fall by Vegetation Control Services and needs cleanup now. Rollins was mowed by Chuck Rose and needs spot spraying. Merrimack County Conservation Service is coordinating the work. Erick will continue to work with them to complete the needed work.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Electro-fishing by NH Fish and Game: Jed has arranged for NH F&G to do one day of electro-fishing in Hopkinton, probably in Dolf Brook, but location to be determined. Jed will take a day off to assist them along with an intern. Jed will ask for volunteers from the HCC when the work is scheduled.
2. Update information on conservation lands for GRANIT: Ron will review the GRANIT map to see if any of the town's conservation lands are missing.
3. Five Rivers sign at Bohanan Farm: Lee reports it is tilting. Rob and Lee will level it.
4. Dumping on Carson Lot: Rob reports the neighbors have been dumping yard waste on the Carson Lot, and one neighbor has created a very large leaf dump that could start to impact the conservation values of the property. Rob will ask Neal Cass to send the neighbor a letter regarding the dumping.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

No meetings scheduled for July and August. Next meeting Tuesday September 16 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

Next host is Rob.