

Hopkinton Conservation Commission  
January 19, 2016 Meeting  
Held at Hopkinton Town Hall - 7:00PM

### **1/19/16 Minutes – Approved**

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Doug Giles, Cleve Kapala, Jed Merrow  
Guest Present: Hilary Chapman – NH Audubon; three Hopkinton high school students observing for their civics class.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Annual Brockway Preserve review: Hilary Chapman reported that all is well. Use of the preserve by programs was down a little in 2015. Hilary is working on updating the preserve brochure, including the map. Lee Wilder will work with Hilary on this project. Discussed the Eagle Scout project to build a viewing platform. The proposed location no longer makes sense because the marsh is drying out so there are few waterfowl to see from the site. Proposed a sign and kiosk at Chase Sanctuary as an alternative.
2. HCC minutes of 12/15/15: Accepted as presented.
3. Treasurer's report through December 2015: Accepted as presented. Year end balance for the Conservation account is \$46,213 and the Town Forest account is \$28,736. Treasurer Jed Merrow has sent the annual report to the town. Signed authorization for payment of NH Association of Conservation Commissions 2016 dues \$333.
4. Trail committee report: Cleve Kapala presented the report from the subcommittee (attached below). Trails continue to get a lot of use. Cleve reported that "No Trespassing" signs have apparently been incorrectly posted by an abutter within the First Parsonage right-of-way. Cleve will identify which signs are misplaced and work with Neal Cass to take remedial action.
5. Cross Road at Maple Street: Cleve Kapala left a voice mail for the listing real estate agent that Cross Road, a Class VI road, crosses the listed property
6. Monitoring Moss easement: Ron Klemarczyk has the plot plan for the easement, but it must be improved to current standards before it can be recorded at the Registry. Ron will fix the plot plan. Actual monitoring will be done in the spring.
7. Kimball Lake: Ron Klemarczyk reports a 12' gate to block vehicle access will cost about \$200 – 250. Project is on hold until spring.
8. HCC Conservation Camper coordinator: In February James Newsom should start the process to identify a 2016 camper.
9. Rollins Lot:
  - Ron Klemarczyk contacted surveyor Tim Bernier and he has blazed the line near Little Tooky Road.
  - Mowing will be done in the spring.
  - Rob Knight reported on his visit to the neighbor who apparently has a trailer stored over the boundary line onto the Rollins lot as well as a pile of wooden shingles. Rob reported that the property line needs to be marked along this abutter's property. Lee Wilder will meet with Neal Cass to discuss actions to be taken.

10. Hopkinton Master Plan – Chapter IX: The marked up draft with the additions from the Open Space Committee (as circulated to the HCC by Rob Knight) was accepted. Rob will send the draft to Melissa Jones to edit for readability.
11. Potential conservation property on the Contoocook: Ron Klemarczyk has written to the owners. Ron will report on their response in February.
12. Lewis Parking Lot: Doug Giles reported the Lewis parking lot has been cleared up.
13. Trails and hunters: Ron Klemarczyk presented a “Multipurpose Property” sign from Fish and Game. Agreed to post it in the Bohanan kiosk.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed NH F&G Bobcat hunting: Cleve Kapala reported that some conservation commissions have taken a stand against bobcat hunting. The Stoddard Conservation Commission is initiating a letter which other conservation commissions may sign onto. Discussed whether taking a position on bobcat hunting is something that is appropriate for the HCC to do. Agreed Cleve will come up with a letter to NH F&G opposing bobcat hunting, circulate it to HCC members for approval, and then have Neal Cass review it.
2. Dog poop on trails: A local business has generously donated two sets of dog waste bags, signs, and trash cans as an experiment to see if it reduces the dog waste on town properties popular with dog walkers. Agreed to locate one set at the Kimball Lake kiosk. The town DPW has agreed to empty the trash cans.
3. Reviewed mail and notices received by the HCC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

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

Ron is the host (substituting for Rob).

## TRAILS COMMITTEE REPORT TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 19, 2016

**Ransmeier Woods parking:** Neal Cass has approved our request to use the Police Station parking lot during winter months when the trailhead lot is not plowed. Kathy Barnes has posted this update on the Conservation Lands website.

**Trail Stewards:** Cleve has lined up trail stewards for all sections of the Greenway as well as the other trails at Ransmeier Woods and Hawthorne Forest, the First Parsonage Trail and Steven's rail trail. Trail stewards are doing a great job maintaining their sections.

Two high school seniors, Bohman Ridinger and Tim Jones, have volunteered to work on trails as part of a community service project. Cleve worked with them on possible routings for the proposed Contoocook Greenway.

**Contoocook Greenway:** Cleve is working with landowners for the proposed Contoocook Greenway. He has three signed trail agreements in place, with others in the works. Sara Persechino is talking with a key landowner. Once trail agreements are signed by landowners, Rob will prepare a GPS track for the existing trails and those agreements can go to the selectmen for approval and signature. The plan is to open the trail in sections with the Maple Street to Cross Road section (all existing trail) to open first. As other trail agreements are secured, we will work on finalizing the trail layout for the second phase.

The Trails Committee plans to lay out a trail this spring to the newly acquired Horne property from the Bohanan Farm trails. The goal is to hold a trail opening in June.

Lucia Kittredge  
Chair,  
Trails Sub-Committee