

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
September 9, 2019 Meeting
Held at the Kimball Lake Cabins

9/9/19 Minutes – Accepted 9/24/19

Present: Lee Wilder, Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, and Bob Lapree
Alternatives present: Jonathan Bradstreet, James Newsom
Visitors: Bonnie Christie
Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Lee Wilder

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
2. HCC minutes for 6/18/19 meeting: Accepted as presented.
3. Treasurer's report: Lee Wilder reported on the status of HCC accounts.
4. Trail subcommittee update: The Trails Committee will meet 9/10/19. Cleve Kapala reported that Dave Luneau plans to contact the DOT to ask for a painted strip on Main Street for Greenway walkers. Bob LaPree reported that he has approval from Dan Blanchette to stencil hiker symbols on the sidewalk from the gazebo to the Contoocook Cemetery for the Little Tooky trail. The Cemetery Committee has approved directional signs in the cemetery and is very enthusiastic about using the cemetery as part of the trail network.
5. Cross Road update: Lee Wilder reported that he and Anna Wells from the Select Board walked Cross Road 9/4. The new, temporary culvert is plugged and water is seeping across the road. October 1 is the DES deadline to remove that culvert. The Select Board will ask DES for an extension since removal of the plugged culvert now would cause a major disruption to the wildlife and upstream wetlands. If the extension is granted, a meeting of all the abutters and interested parties will be organized to come up with a plan that hopefully everyone agrees to. A number of possible plans were discussed.
6. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: Rob Knight will check whether Neal Cass has any changes to the easement from the Select Board or town attorney.
7. Houston Intervale conservation easement: The easement closed July 15. Five Rivers is still working on fundraising the final budgeted funds.
8. Ransmeier parking lot: Lee and Cleve have nothing to report.
9. HCC summer camper 2019: Our sponsored camper attended. Lee will ask if the camper is willing to give the HCC a report at a future HCC meeting.
10. Contoocook/North Branch and Warner River local advisory councils proposed programs: Bonnie Christie asked if the HCC would be willing to support public programs on the natural and cultural history of the rivers and the current and future river protections. The programs would be sponsored by the river advisory councils, and the conservation commissions and historic societies from Warner and Hopkinton. A motion was unanimously approved to support the proposed public programs as discussed, i.e. a two-night program to be put on by the Contoocook/North Branch and Warner River local advisory councils.

Lee Wilder made a motion, seconded by Rob Knight to adjourn to non-public meeting per RSA 91 A:3 II (d) Acquisition of real estate. Vote unanimous in favor. The Committee adjourned to non-public session at 7:48 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:38 PM. James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Bob Lapree to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote unanimous in favor.

11. Meadows culvert: The Meadows has filed an after-the-fact DES application. Lee Wilder pointed out that the application does not address the new box culvert's size and placement and its further contributing to the ox-bow issue which is likely to cause problems eventually.

NEW BUSINESS

1. FEMA is currently remapping for Contoocook River flood plain for new flood insurance maps.
2. Capital improvement planning: Projects over \$10,000 should be added to the plan. None anticipated.
3. Right-to-know law seminar: Will be on 9/12. Bob Lapree will attend as HCC representative.
4. 2020 HCC budget: Budget is due on 10/10. Agreed to submit the same budget as last year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Kimball Cabins. Lee is the host.