

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
September 24, 2019 Meeting
Held at the Kimball Lake Cabins

9/24/19 Minutes – Accepted 10/08/19

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, Melissa Jones and Bob Lapree

Alternatives present: Jonathan Bradstreet, James Newsom

Visitor: Ann Wells

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairperson Lee Wilder

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
2. Cross Road update: Anna Wells reported that DES has suggested applying for an after-the-fact permit for the culvert and the Select Board has engaged an engineering firm to prepare the application. Concern was expressed that the engineers will prepare an excessively complex and expensive application. Ron Klemarczyk volunteered to check with Neal Cass on what the engineers are preparing. Anna said that once the DES violation is cleared up, she will organize a meeting with all the stakeholders to discuss ways to keep the road open.
3. Complete Streets committee: Anna Wells is looking for a representative from Trails, HCC, or OSC for the Complete Streets committee. Decided that a representative from the Trails Committee would be most appropriate, and the Trails Committee will nominate a representative at its 10/16 meeting.
Anna Wells left the meeting.
4. HCC minutes (public and non-public) for 9/9/19 meeting; minutes for 8/27/19 non-public meeting: Accepted as presented.
5. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported the status of HCC accounts. A \$2,047.50 change of use tax is expected soon.
6. Stevens Rail Trail: Bob Lapree reported that an abutter is claiming rail trail work was done on the abutter's property. Bob and Ron Klemarczyk met on site and then reviewed the relevant deeds, tax maps and surveys with Neal Cass. The deed does not match the survey and it appears the snowmobile trail does cross the abutter's property. Ron suggested that a land swap might be a way to clear up ownership in the area. Bob complained that the historic railroad bed ballast has been unnecessarily removed by the rail trail people. It was agreed that the HCC should have been clearer on what the HCC was authorizing the rail trail group to do, and the rail trail folks should have been clearer on the scope of their planned work.
The current status is that a survey and deed research is needed to establish the property boundary. Meanwhile trail work is on hold until property ownership is established.
7. Rivers local advisory council proposed programs: In view of the confusion over HCC's authorization to the rail trail group, Lee Wilder asked that we revisit the motion from the HCC 9/9 meeting to support the councils' proposed public programs. Lee felt "support" could be misinterpreted. After discussion a motion was unanimously approved to clarify that by "support" the HCC meaning is to encourage people to attend the council presentations.

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 8:12 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 9:16 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.

Due to the time, it was agreed to hold the rest of the agenda until the next HCC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall. Melissa is the host.