

Hopkinton Conservation Commission  
November 19, 2019 Meeting  
Held at the Hopkinton Library Community Room

**11/19/19 Minutes – Accepted 12/18/19**

Present: James Newsom, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, Melissa Jones and Bob Lapree

Alternatives present: Jonathan Bradstreet

Visitors: Bonnie Christie, Peter Maciaszek

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by James Newsom

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
2. HCC minutes for 10/08/19 public and non-public meetings accepted as presented.
3. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones had no report at the meeting, but later emailed that the current account balances are \$39,234.88 in the Conservation Account and \$67,021.36 in the Town Forest account. Approved payment of \$350 to the NHACC for annual dues. Patrick Quinn had leftover funds from his Rollins lot Eagle Scout project, which Ron Klemarczyk deposited in the Town Forest account.  
Budget meeting with Select Board: The HCC budget will be \$1.00 again this year. The Select Board is considering increasing the HCC share of the Change of Use Tax from 35% to 50%. This is on the Select Board agenda for 11/25. James Newsom will confirm the time.
4. Houston project payment: Five Rivers sent an invoice for \$750 survey expense. Rob Knight explained there had been confusion over who paid which bills, but including this \$750 invoice, the HCC share of the cost would be \$42,000 as had been agreed upon. The payment was approved with Rob abstaining.
5. Annual monitoring: Rob Knight reported that he and Jonathan Bradstreet have monitored the Rose and Janeway easements, and Rob has monitored the Brockway, Hawthorne, and Moss easements. The Clement Hill easements have not been monitored.
6. Beyer lot easement: Rob Knight has sent a follow-up to NH Audubon, checking on their progress in reviewing the changes to the draft easement.
7. Cross Road: James Newsom has an update from Neal Cass. It has been over 50 days since the after-the-fact culvert application was filed by the town. Neal expects to receive the permit soon. Next steps will be considered after the permit is received.
8. Trails subcommittee update: Cleve Kapala reported that despite heavy rain, there were 17 people at the Little Tooky Trail opening on 10/27, and the trail is now open. There were 86 hikers at a Five Rivers' hike at Bohanan Farm. Cleve and Lissa Jones have been removing blowdowns on our trails.  
Bob Lapree asked whether the HCC should make Rollins a no-hunting property because of the trail and the many nearby homes. Ron Klemarczyk said that there are four no-hunting HCC properties: Brockway, Kimball cabins, Hawthorne, and Beyer. The hunting discussion was tabled for discussion after the hunting season.

9. Stevens Rail Trail: The surfacing of the trail is complete except for the disputed section. Ron Klemarczyk made a motion that the large boulder near the trail should be named Wilder Rock and a sign put up. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Ransmeier parking lot: Ron Klemarczyk reported that he has found some but not all the property bounds. A survey is needed to reset the bounds. Rob Knight suggested that temporary stakes be set so a proposed site plan can be completed and submitted to Five Rivers.
11. Complete Streets: Cleve Kapala reports that the committee is setup, and the first working meeting is scheduled for 11/20.
12. HCC summer camper 2019: James Newsom circulated a thank-you letter from Tyler Baron, the camper. Discussed sponsoring a camper in 2020. Discussed that other camps might be more appropriate. Agreed that since the RSA does not authorize a Conservation Commission to pay camp fees, the camper program will be suspended for now.
13. NHACC conference: No one was able to attend.
14. Sealed minutes: Rob Knight will review past HCC sealed minutes for minutes that could be unsealed, and at the next HCC meeting will present a list of minutes to be unsealed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Chase Sanctuary addition: Ron Klemarczyk reported that the Evelyn Chase Trust is working on a subdivision which would allow the trust to donate an additional 34 acres to the sanctuary.
2. Rose land swap: Ron Klemarczyk reported the possible swap is proceeding slowly. A problem is that the lots to be swapped have quite different assessed values. A timber harvest might bring the values closer. Discussed that for the HCC to approve a swap, it should clearly be in the public benefit.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Update on plastics: Bonnie Christie reported that there is a bill before the NH legislature to ban plastic bags. Bonnie hoped for public support.
2. Contoocook & North Branch Advisory Committee: Bonnie Christie, Hopkinton's representative on the committee, reported that the committee had met. She asked that the HCC make a contribution to the committee. Most towns in the area support the advisory committee's programs. Discussion of a donation was tabled until next month.

Rob Knight made a motion, seconded by Lissa Jones 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 8:03 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:43 PM. Rob Knight 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.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:00 PM, location to be determined.