

Hopkinton Conservation Commission

October 27, 2020 Meeting

Held via ZOOM per the Governor's Emergency Order #12/Executive Order 2020-04

**10/27/20 Minutes – Accepted 11/17/20**

Roll call taken. Present: James Newsom, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Melissa Jones, Bob Lapree, Jonathan Bradstreet, Bonnie Christie, Molly Hardenberg (Alt), Juliana Dapice (Alt), Stephanie Kratsios (Alt),

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by James Newsom and James read a statement regarding the Governor's Emergency Order #12/Executive Order 2020-04 and how the meeting would be conducted online.

1. HCC minutes for 9/15/20 public and non-public meetings were accepted as presented, with Bonnie Christie abstaining.
2. NHDES Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit application for the Hoague-Sprague Hydroelectric Project (at Rowell Bridge): Application is for debris removal and repairs. Ron Klemarczyk moved and Jonathan Bradstreet seconded a motion to authorize James Newsom to sign the application on behalf of the HCC. Motion passed with all voting in favor except Bonnie Christie who abstained.
3. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported \$66,632 in the Town Forest account and \$21,058 in the Conservation Account. \$6,885 in LUCT was received during the month. Melissa will confirm that the HCC's share of the LUCT was 50%.
4. Budget: Discussed whether to ask for only one dollar in appreciation of our increased share of the LUCT, or to ask for an amount similar to past years. Bonnie Christie volunteered to investigate how much money conservation commissions in other towns receive. Rob Knight moved and Ron Klemarczyk seconded a motion to submit a budget of \$2,800, broken down as Appraisals \$2,000; Dues \$350; Training \$250; Trail Signs \$200. Voting in favor: Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Bob Lapree, Jonathan Bradstreet. Voting against: James Newsom, Bonnie Christie. Melissa Jones abstained. Motion passed. Melissa will submit the budget.
5. NHACC Dues: Rob Knight moved and Jonathan Bradstreet seconded a motion to pay the annual dues of \$350. The motion passed unanimously.
6. CNBRLAC donation: Bonnie Christie moved and Melissa Jones seconded a motion to make a contribution of \$50 to the river local advisory council. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Land acquisitions: Rob Knight reported that there are no public updates.
8. Easement monitoring: Rob Knight reported that he has monitored and prepared monitoring reports for Brockway and Hawthorne (LCIP) and Moss. He and Jonathan Bradstreet are scheduled to do Rose & Janeway (SPNHF) on Saturday.
9. Brockway beavers: The water level is within 4" of the top of the dam and has backed up in the culvert under Farrington Corner Road. Ron Klemarczyk suggested installing a 'beaver deceiver', although it might have to be replaced annually. Last time there was a problem the highway department trapped the beavers, but there was an adverse reaction from the public. Bonnie Christie suggested hiring a professional to assess the problem and suggest solutions. Rob Knight said that it seems to be a road problem and the highway department should deal with it. Rob asked about liability if the dam broke. Ron said that the dam is listed with DES, but is not listed as a dangerous dam since there are swamps below it which would

contain any surge. Since the dam is listed, nothing can be done to the dam without an engineer's report and a DES permit. DES would have to be petitioned to have the dam removed from listed status. Agreed to take no action at this time, and to continue to monitor the water level.

10. Trails update: Stevens Railtrail: Ron Klemarczyk and his wife have cleared and flagged the side trail. Ron will blaze it and put up signs soon. The Trails Committee plans to call it Hemlock Spur Trail.
11. Annual report: HCC annual report is due January 7, and the financial report is due February 9. Melissa Jones volunteered to draft the reports.
12. NHACC handbooks: Discussed whether to get the \$10 handbook for each HCC member. Rob Knight moved and Jonathan Bradstreet seconded a motion that the HCC authorize Bonnie Christie to purchase ten handbooks for \$100 so each HCC member would have a handbook. Motion passed with all voting in favor except Melissa Jones who abstained. Bonnie will leave the handbooks at the town hall for members to pick up.
13. NHACC annual meeting and conference: It is scheduled for November 7 via ZOOM. Bob Lapree said that in the past the HCC has reimbursed members' cost of attending conferences. The cost for the NHACC meeting is \$35. Rob and Bonnie plan to attend. James Newsom will circulate the conference flier to everyone.
14. Timber sale: Ron Klemarczyk reported that the Foote Town Forest has lots of red pine with an infestation of scale, and they will die within a year. He has received two bids to log the property: Bob Lee \$10,800 and Chuck Rose \$12,865 (the HCC would net \$11,000 approximately). Ron moved and Bob Lapree seconded a motion to accept Chuck Rose's bid and proceed with the Foote Town Forest timber sale. Motion passed unanimously.

Non-public session: Bonnie Christie made a motion, seconded by Jon Bradstreet, 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 8:04 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:40 PM. Jon Bradstreet made a motion, seconded by Melissa Jones to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote unanimous in favor (Bonnie Christie left the meeting at 8:23, so Molly Hardenberg was the seventh voting member).

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on November 17, 2020.