Hopkinton Conservation Commission
January 19, 2021 Meeting
Held via ZOOM per the Governor's Emergency Order #12/Executive Order 2020-04

1/19/21 Minutes – DRAFT

Roll call taken. Present: James Newsom, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Melissa Jones, Bob Lapree, Jonathan Bradstreet, Bonnie Christie, Molly Hardenbergh (Alt), Juliana Dapice (Alt), Stephanie Kratsios (Alt)
Visitor: Tommy Hardenbergh - for his civics class.
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 12/15/20 meeting were accepted.
2. HCC mail: The mail was not received from the town office.
3. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported $66,642 in the Town Forest account and $24,574 in the Conservation Account. We received $4,245 in LUCT in December.
4. Chesley purchase: Purchase closed 1/14/21 and it is now the Tyler Landing Town Forest. Rob Knight will give a financial summary at a future meeting, but so far the HCC cost is only $56,593 out of $63,500 authorized. We still need to pay Five Rivers $2,500 in conjunction with getting the grant (as approved at HCC 11/19/19 non-public meeting), but hopefully HCC cost will be about $4,500 less than the authorized $63,500. We need our expenses to match the grant amount. Bob Lapree has sent out a press release.
5. Mowing the Rollins lot for view and habitat management: Tabled for later discussion.
6. Brockway - abutter's request for a tree to be removed: Neal Cass and the Highway Department are working on it.
7. Trails update: Ron Klemarczyk has met with an Eagle Scout candidate who is interested in making a kiosk for Rollins' Little Tooky trailhead. James Newsom has been contacted by a person who wants to do trail maintenance at Brockway. The person should contact Hilary Chapman at NH Audubon.
8. Annual report: HCC annual report has been submitted by Melissa Jones and she was complimented on an excellent job. Melissa is working on the financial report which is due February 9.
9. Shoreline protection act education effort: Bonnie Christie and Melissa Jones have started drafting a flier on the basics of the riverfront protection act. Discussed how to make it shorter than the five-page DES pamphlet without misleading anyone. Links to the DES information will help. They plan to run it by DES to be sure it is correct. Stephanie Kratsios has technical writing experience and is willing to help. Target audience will be property owners with shorefront and local realtors.
10. Earth Day activities: Bonnie Christie wondered if the HCC should be participating in Earth Day (April 30). After discussion, the HCC was open to doing something for Earth Day. Bonnie will let the Waste Committee know that the HCC is interested in coordinating with them on Earth Day.

11. NRI update: Our Natural Resource Inventory is a series of maps at present. It should include a narrative as well. James Newsom will get quotes on the cost of preparing an updated NRI. James estimates the cost to be in the $12 - 15,000 range.
12. Master Plan update: The town's master plan is "owned" by the Planning Board and the last major update was in 2002. The Planning Board has been slowly working on an update and at their request, in 2015 the HCC submitted an updated Chapter IX "Conservation, Preservation and Open Space" to the Planning Board. Bonnie Christie said our 2015 updates may already be outdated, and the section should include information on climate change. She suggested that the HCC update the NRI and the Master Plan at the same time. Melissa Jones will contact the Planning Board to see what happened to our 2015 updates.
13. Proposed changes to the RSA on conservation easements: The NHACC is against the amendments. Next meeting, after members have read the amendment, we will discuss whether the HCC should take a formal position against the amendment.
14. Foote Lot timber sale: Ron Klemarczyk gave an update. Chuck Rose was the high bidder. Rain has made the east portion too wet to harvest this winter unless there is a hard freeze. The west portion, where there is urgency to harvest due to the Red Pine scale, is drier and will be harvested this month.

    Ron Klemarczyk made a motion, seconded by Melissa 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 8:08 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:29 PM. Ron Klemarczyk 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.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.
Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.
Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on February 16, 2021.