

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
January 15, 2019 Meeting
Held at Town Hall

1/15/19 Minutes – DRAFT

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, Melissa Jones, Jonathan Bradstreet, James Newsome

Visitor: Bonnie Christie

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chairperson Lee Wilder

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
2. HCC minutes for 11/20/18 meeting: Accepted as presented.
3. Treasurer's report: Approved annual report as drafted by Melissa Jones.
4. HCC summer camper 2019: Discussed whether paying for a summer camper is an appropriate use of conservation commission funds. The recent NHACC webinar seemed to indicate that per RSA 36A, paying for a camper is not appropriate. James Newsome will give his opinion on this after discussing the issue with the camp director.
5. Trail subcommittee update: Cleve Kapala reported that the First Day hike was very successful with approximately 45 hikers. Cleve reported that all the "Cooperating Private Landowner" signs are up. Cleve reported that someone has built small bridges across drainages on the Putney to Cross Road trail.
6. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: Rob Knight reported that OSC members have provided comments on the draft conservation easement but Dijit Taylor has not had time to assemble the comments and relay them to Neal Cass for BOS and town counsel review.
7. Annual monitoring of conservation easements: Was done by Lee Wilder and Rob Knight, and the reports have been completed and submitted.
8. Houston conservation easement: Rob Knight spoke as a representative of Five Fivers. He reported that the project has been awarded a Moose Plate grant of \$20,000, and since there is no DES Groundwater grant, estimated transaction costs have been reduced and now the funding shortfall is only \$8,500. Both a member of the Select Board and Five Rivers have offered to do fundraising to raise the remaining funds. Rob said that the next steps are to put in place a MOU between the HCC and Five Rivers, execute a P&S between Five Rivers and the Houstons, survey the property, and draft the conservation easement. Rob presented a draft MOU to make clear the responsibilities of Five Rivers and the HCC regarding the project. Discussed changing the name of the project and better wording of one sentence. The HCC voted to authorize the HCC Chair to sign the MOU with the changes as discussed.
9. HCC 2018 Town Report: Prepared by Ron Klemarczyk and submitted to the town.
10. Warner River issues: Lee Wilder reported that there has been tree cutting along the river bank and in Deer Meadow a culvert has been replaced, apparently without a DES permit. The Warner River local advisory committee is concerned.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ransmeier Parking Lot: The Hopkinton highway department would like to combine the Police Department and the trailhead parking lots into one lot to make it easier to plow and provide more parking space for winter hikers. Drainage would be improved at the same time. The HCC voted to allow the parking lots to be combined. Ron will work with the Town Highway Department regarding the details.
2. Contoocook River at the gazebo in Contoocook village: Cleve Kapala reported that there is local concern about erosion and trash on the riverbank behind the gazebo. Cleve said the river is a resource for the town and the present condition of the landing is a detriment.
3. Barnard/Default boundary dispute: Lee Wilder reported that a member of the Barnard family has been in contact with the HCC and Neal Cass expressing a desire to promptly resolve the dispute and asking the town's help in providing assistance in coming up with a solution. Lee will work with the parties involved to see what can be done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.
Ron is the host.