

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
February 19, 2019 Meeting
Held at Town Hall

2/19/19 Minutes – Approved 4/16/19

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

Visitors: Tom Walton, Peter Maciaszek

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Contoocook River in Contoocook: Tom Walton presented his plan to make the Contoocook River a better utilized feature in the village. He would like to start with the area next to the gazebo. The first step would be to improve the path used to access the river for launching non-motorized boats. Currently the access is down a washed-out gully. Tom presented a sketch map of an improved path to the boat launch. This plan has been discussed with DES. His proposed initial steps are:

- Erect a sign “Riverway Park”. The Rotary might help with the sign.
- Erect two granite posts to mark the entrance to the path. Posts are already on site.
- Gravel the path. Estimated cost \$160. Tom would donate this gravel.
- Trim back vegetation along the path to a six-foot width, as per current DES Shoreline Protection standards, allowing safe use of the proposed improved path as well as a better view of the river.
- Open a view of the river from the park by trimming about 60’ of brush to a three-foot height along the top to the bank, per current DES Shoreline Protection standards.

Cleve Kapala spoke in support of the proposal. Discussed the fact that the lot for the Bates property (old Town Clerk office) is merged with the Riverway Park lot. If the Bates building were sold, a subdivision would be needed. Ron Klemarczyk said parking might be an issue if boaters left their vehicles at the lot.

It was suggested that Tom should coordinate his plans with the Recreation Department (Paula Simpkins - Director).

A motion was unanimously approved that the HCC supports the Riverway Park project as presented, and the HCC thanked Tom for his work.

2. Antioch graduate school project at Hawthorne Forest: Peter Maciaszek, a grad student at Antioch, would like to set up four game cameras at Hawthorne Forest for a month as a school project to do a wildlife inventory. The cameras would be away from the hiking trails and not baited. Peter would share his report with the HCC. A motion was unanimously passed that the HCC grants Peter permission to put up game cameras in Hawthorn Forest for Antioch’s 2019 spring semester as part of his Antioch class project. Lee Wilder will write a letter formally giving HCC permission to Peter.
3. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
4. HCC minutes for 1/15/19 meeting: Accepted as presented.
5. Treasurer’s report: Melissa Jones reported that in January the HCC received \$1,873 Land Change of Use tax.

6. HCC summer camper 2019: James Newsome reported that he has received enough private donations to pay for a camper for 2019. James is waiting for the school to suggest a deserving camper.
7. Trail subcommittee update: The Trails Committee will be meeting 2/21/19.
8. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: Ron Klemarczyk reported that there has been no change in the status of the easement review by Hopkinton.
9. Houston conservation easement: Rob Knight reported that a purchase and sale agreement has been drafted and is being reviewed by Rich Houston. Five Rivers received survey bids which came in higher than expected, but one bid is within the budget and Ron Klemarczyk's research may further reduce the cost. The name of the project is now "Houston Intervale".
10. Warner River Local Advisory Committee concerns: Lee Wilder reported that the Warner River Local Advisory Council has reported the Deer Meadow culvert to DES.
11. Barnard - Dufault lots: Lee Wilder reported that the parties were unwilling to talk, and the dispute will probably go to court for resolution.
12. Ransmeier property parking: The work will not be done until spring. Ron Klemarczyk will discuss the possible driveway on the conservation land with Five Rivers.
13. Cemetery Lot: Lee Wilder is in communication with Judy Hampe.

NEW BUSINESS

1. J.E. Derry Building at Kimball Lake: Lee Wilder reported that the town currently intends to retain ownership of the Horseshoe Tavern building.
2. HB 442 - Coyote season: Cleve Kapala reported that the bill to close the hunting season during the spring whelping season was not recommended by committee. It has not yet come up before the full House.
3. Beaver device bill: Cleve Kapala reported that a bill to allow towns to install beaver devices was approved by house committee.
4. Rollins Trail: Ron Klemarczyk plans to submit a DES wetlands application for the proposed boardwalk. The Scout is still interested in doing the trail as a Scout project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

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

James is the host.