

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
April 16, 2019 Meeting
Held at Town Hall

4/16/19 Minutes – Approved 5/21/19

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, Doug Giles, Jonathan Bradstreet

Visitors: Tim Bassett of Gould Hill Orchard, Bonnie Christie, Patrick Quinn

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Agricultural/Fire Pond at Gould Hill Orchard: Tim Bassett explained that he needs to double the size of his existing pond as requested by his insurance company. He also needs more water for irrigation because he is planning more fruit trees. The expansion will have 600 - 700 SF of wetland impact and qualifies for an expedited permit from DES. He needs the HCC to sign the application. A motion was unanimously approved authorizing the Chair to sign the application.
2. Trail at Rollins property: Patrick Quinn, an Eagle Scout candidate, will work with Ron Klemarczyk to create a trail at the Rollins property as an Eagle Scout project. Ron explained the boardwalk over the drainage at Rollins will not be part of Patrick's scope of work. The 60' boardwalk needs to be higher than expected due to the volume of water in the drainage. Ron plans to raise the boardwalk to 18" and add a section of railing where it crosses a stream. Ron has received a wetlands permit for the work. The additional cost will be about \$800. A motion was unanimously approved authorizing up to \$2,200 from the town forest account for the boardwalk.
3. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
4. HCC minutes for 2/19/19 meeting: Accepted as presented.
5. Treasurer's report: In the absence of the treasurer, Lee Wilder reported that in February the HCC received \$2,078 Land Change of Use tax. No expenses incurred.
6. HCC summer camper 2019: Lee Wilder reported that a camper has been selected and the cost will be paid by an anonymous donor. Lee said a plan is needed to fund campers in the future. Bonnie Christie said that her current interpretation of the rules regulating CC expenses would allow the HCC to pay for a camper if it will bring a benefit to the town. Bonnie volunteered to talk to the NHACC and see if this would be legal.
7. Ransmeier property parking: Ron Klemarczyk showed a proposed plan that would improve parking at the Police Station by combining it with the Ransmeier parking area. The drive would be 18' wide and there would be approximately 2,100 SF of paving on the Ransmeier lot. The combined parking lot would create a safer entrance to the police station and additional year-round parking for hikers. The Ransmeier lot currently has five parking spaces but, because the lot is not suitable for winter plowing, hikers have been using the police lot in winter. This has occasionally created a shortage of parking for police department visitors. Ron is preparing a letter to Five Rivers Conservation Trust, holders of the Ransmeier conservation easement, requesting that the paving be allowed since it is in line with the purposes of the easement. A motion was unanimously approved authorizing

the Chair to sign the letter to Five Rivers. The HCC thanked Ron for his work drafting the letter, and his time and many meetings on this project.

8. Trail subcommittee update: The Trails Committee met 4/09/19. Cleve Kapala reported: the committee is working on a trails policy addressing motorized vehicle use; Cleve has 12 trail volunteers available to do work on the trails; the committee plans to close the Courser loop at Bohanan until better access is worked out; there will be a hike June 1 at Hawthorne Forest for national trails day; the committee is working on trail signs, trying to have a consistent appearance and to use more posts for signs rather than trees. Cleve requested and the HCC approved up to \$160 from the Conservation account for ten 12' 4x4 posts for signs.
9. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: Rob Knight reported that he has volunteered to help get the draft easement to the Select Board for their approval.
10. Houston Intervale conservation easement: Rob Knight, speaking as a representative of Five Rivers Conservation Trust, presented the draft easement language regarding public access and the trail. Any trail must not be surfaced and its use will be secondary to agricultural use of the field (much like the current trail use). The trail will continue to be between the buffer along the river and the crop in the field. Ron Klemarczyk commented that he did not envision a formal trail since there is no destination and trails in fields do not work well in the summer.
11. Warner River Local Advisory Committee concerns: Lee Wilder reported that the Deer Meadow culvert is now being handled by DES as a violation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Threatening pine trees at Brockway: Lee Wilder reported that he and Neal have heard from the property owner across the road from Brockway Preserve (Oakley). Mr. Oakley is concerned that the large pine trees in the town right of way and on the Brockway property could fall and hit his house. After several visits to the site by town and HCC members, the town intends to remove several trees that currently appear to be a safety hazard. Regarding removal of additional trees on the Brockway property, Ron Klemarczyk said that if trees along the edge of the forest are removed, it exposes trees behind them to the wind and more trees will fall.
2. Hawthorne forest possible encroachment: Cleve Kapala reported that an abutter may be encroaching near the Main Street entrance to Hawthorne. Cleve will investigate further.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

Doug is the host.