

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
June 12, 2018 Meeting
Held at Kimball Cabin

6/12/18 Minutes – Accepted 9/18/18

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Jed Merrow, Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, Bob LaPree
Alternates: Melissa Jones, Jonathan Bradstreet
Visitor: Bonnie Christie
Meeting was called to order at 7:15 by Chairperson Lee Wilder

COMMITTEE CHANGES

1. Jed Merrow resignation: Jed announced that he is moving to Concord and resigned from the HCC effective 6/12. He was thanked for his long and very professional service on the HCC.
2. Melissa Jones: The HCC recommended Melissa as a replacement for Jed. Melissa volunteered to serve as treasurer. Duties include preparation of the annual budget and a financial report at year end.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
2. HCC minutes of 5/15/18: Accepted as presented by Rob Knight.
3. Treasurer's report: Report accepted. Approved payment of \$510 from the Conservation Fund to UNH 4-H Camp to pay for the HCC summer camper from town. Approved payment of \$7,500 from the Conservation Fund to Five Rivers as the stewardship fee for the Hart conservation easement on 28 acres on Kast Hill.
4. Trail subcommittee update: Cleve Kapala discussed the procedure for responding to inquiries that come into the town office. Cleve responds after checking with Lee Wilder. Cleve reported that most of the maintenance on trails is done by himself and Bob LaPree rather than the trail stewards.
The Selectboard plans to remove the beaver dam and make Cross Road passable by July 1. Bonnie Christie pointed out that a conservation commission's mission by statute is to protect natural resources. Bonnie feels the HCC should be doing more to protect the wetland and wildlife at Cross Road. Several commission members mentioned the dam's impact on landowners, and the recreational benefit of Cross Road and the potential trail network off Cross Road.
5. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: Status will be discussed at the OSC meeting 6/13/18. [6/13/18 update: OSC members have provided comments on the draft conservation easement. Dijit Taylor will assemble comments and relay to Neal for BOS and town counsel review].
6. Sheldon Lot easement boundaries: Ron Klemarczyk reported that Foreco's plan to set pins on June 12 was delayed. It will be done next month.
7. Possible conservation easements: Rob Knight representing Five Rivers reported:
 - The Hart conservation easement is on track to close in July.
 - Five Rivers has received a \$40,000 grant to help with the cost of the possible easement in Contoocook. \$28,500 is still needed to fund the easement. Moose Plate or the town might be sources of funding.

8. New Cemetery lot: Lee Wilder reported that a neighbor has committed some money to the purchase. He is pursuing other donations
9. Logging Contoocook River lot: Still waiting for appraisals of the lots to be swapped.
10. Brockway usage: NH Audubon has had several preschool groups visit.
11. Stevens Rail Trail: Bob LaPree is making sure the lock on the gate provides access for the Fire Department and HCC.

Ron Klemarczyk made a motion, seconded by Cleve Kapala 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 8:15 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:46 PM. Ron Klemarczyk made a motion, seconded by Cleve Kapala to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote unanimous in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mowing Rollins lot. Ron Klemarczyk will talk to Chuck Rose about mowing the lot this fall.
2. Horse trail on Ransmeier property: Melissa Jones reported that an abutter to the property would like to create a horse trail. A horse trail is a possibility if it would be used by a number of local horseback riders. Ron Klemarczyk will look at possible routes.
3. Summer Meetings: Lee Wilder proposed that the HCC not meet during July and August unless urgent business necessitated a meeting. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 7:00 PM at Kimball Cabin.

Melissa is the host.