

**6/20/17 Minutes – Approved 9/19/17**

Present: Lee Wilder, Rob Knight, Ron Klemarczyk, Bob Lapree, Cleve Kapala, Jed Merrow, and Doug Giles; Alternatives: Melissa Jones, Jonathan Bradstreet  
Meeting was called to order at 7:09 by Chairperson Lee Wilder.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
2. HCC minutes of 5/16/17: Approved.
3. Treasurer's report for April and May was approved as presented. Receipts of approximately \$24,000 for Gould timber sale and \$1,744 for a land use change were reported
4. Trail subcommittee update: Cleve Kapala reported that the Putney Hill to Cross Road trail is being cut. Kathy Barnes has updated the conservation lands website with respect to uses of town trails and town-owned lands, particularly regarding horse and ATV use of the trails. Additionally, she has volunteered to transition the website to a software upgrade that enables better use for mobile devices and accessing trail maps. The HCC commended and appreciates Kathy for her continuing support. The website is getting about 350 hits per week.  
Ron Klemarczyk will be laying out a trail loop at the Rollins lot. There is a 60' wet area in the middle of the property which will need a boardwalk requiring \$1,400 of materials and a wetland permit. Ron will organize an opportunity for the Trails subcommittee to walk the proposed route. The trail may not be done in time for a September hike.  
Lee Wilder reported that the Greenway trail gets a lot of use and there are always cars parked at the Kimball Cabin trailhead. Discussed the benefit of having a "Friends of Hopkinton Trails" group to provide manpower and support. A combined HCC and KLC event in the fall of 2017 might be a good way to thank volunteers, and landowners with trail easements.
5. Timber harvests at Rollins and Gould: Ron estimated that the HCC Forestry account will net \$15,000 from Rollins timber sale.
6. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: No news from NH Audubon as to when they will be ready to close on the conservation easement.
7. Camp Barry: Approved payment of \$155 to pay the balance of the camp fee. After the camper attends the camp, the HCC will reimburse the camper's family for the \$150 deposit they paid.
8. Brockway brochure: The new brochure is printed and Lee Wilder will bring copies to the next meeting.
9. Sheldon Lot Easement Boundaries: Foreco has not yet been able to set the pins for the exclusion area.
10. Possible Conservation Easement: Rob Knight reported that, as a representative of Five Rivers, he has met with the landowner and her son. It appears now that the landowner would donate a conservation easement but not the fee interest in the hayfield. Cleve Kapala asked about the public benefit of the land in question, and asked if simply preserving open space was a sufficient benefit. Discussion followed with various opinions as to the benefit of open land as the town develops. There was agreement that the town cannot afford to protect all open space, but where a landowner wants to donate a conservation easement and the town is paying only the transaction costs, the standard for public benefit may be lower.  
Lee Wilder reported that there may be possible wetland mitigation funds available to cover a portion of the transaction costs for this easement. Lee and Rob Knight will work on applying for mitigation funds.

11. Warner River drainage basin protection: Doug Giles will contact Chris Connors to let her know that the HCC is supportive.
12. Trail Construction in Wetlands: Lee Wilder has discussed this with DES and if bridges cross from top of bank to top of bank no permit is needed, but if bridges have supports in a stream or wetland, a permit and \$25 permit fee are required.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. ATV use on Aqueduct Lot: Rob Knight reports ATV use on the Aqueduct Lot, causing ruts. Per state RSA, ATV's are not permitted on property without the landowner's permission. The HCC policy is that ATV activity is not permitted on town land. Rob will ask Neal Cass to contact the abutter and ask that they not use ATVs on town land and that they remediate the ruts.
2. House abutting Rollins property is for sale: Lee Wilder requested Rob Knight to ensure that the new property markers are still in place and inform the realtors, Cowan and Zeller, that the lawn encroaches on town property.
3. Bohanan Kayak Ramp: Bob Lapree reported that the river is too high to put the ramp in place, but he will organize putting the ramp out as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 19 at 7 PM at the Kimball Lake Cabin. Lee is the host.