

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
May 21, 2019 Meeting
Held at Kimball Cabin

5/21/19 Minutes – Approved 6/18/19

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, Doug Giles, Melissa Jones, and Bob Lapree

Alternatives present: Jonathan Bradstreet, James Newsome

Visitors: Anna Wells from the Select Board, 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 4/16/19 meeting: Accepted as presented.
3. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported the status of HCC accounts. The following bills were approved for payment from the Conservation account:
 - Five Rivers legal expenses in connection with Houston Intervale project \$83
 - Steve Perron survey expenses in connection with Houston Intervale project \$3,750
 - Scott Heath appraisal \$500
4. Trail subcommittee update: The Trails Committee met 5/07/19. Cleve Kapala reported that the committee is organizing a hike at Hawthorne Forest for National Trails day Saturday June 1 at 1:00 PM. Town trails are generally in good shape but wet.
Re: Ransmeier parking lot, Lee Wilder and Cleve Kapala will meet Thursday with a Five Rivers representative to look at the location of the property line.
Re: Rollins Trail. Ron Klemarczyk reported the new trail is all cleared and partially blazed. Directional signs have been ordered. There will be a work group Sunday 5/26 at 9:30 AM to work on the bridge.
5. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: Rob Knight reported that he has the draft easement and the comments from the OSC and will combine them for Select Board approval.
6. Houston Intervale conservation easement: Rob Knight, speaking as a representative of Five Rivers Conservation Trust, reported the survey is almost complete and it appears the cost will be under the estimate thanks to the work Ron Klemarczyk did finding bounds. A draft of the easement has been circulated to HCC members. James Newsome suggested specifically mentioning the HCC in the easement and it was agreed that should be done. Rob explained that Five Rivers sends copies of monitoring reports to the town but a requirement to do that could not easily be added to the easement. James mentioned concerns about Section 22 relating to Section 15, which Rob will flag for Five Rivers' attorney.
A motion was unanimously approved authorizing the HCC Chair to sign the easement on behalf of the HCC (Rob abstaining).
Rob explained that all funding must be in place before grant funds can be requested and Moose Plate takes 5 - 6 weeks after the request is received. \$8,500 remains to be raised by private fundraising. In order to move forward toward a closing, Ron Klemarczyk made the following motion:

In the event that private fundraising does not cover the necessary funds to close the Houston Intervale project, the HCC will increase its funding commitment made at its 1/16/18 meeting from \$42,000 to \$50,500 from the Conservation account. Such increase in funds shall be contingent on Five Rivers inability to raise the additional \$8,500. If these contingent funds are used to close the contemplated transaction then Five Rivers will reimburse the HCC upon successful fundraising following reasonably diligent efforts by Five Rivers to raise such funds. Further, authorize the HCC Chair to execute an amendment to the MOU with Five Rivers in accordance to this motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Rob abstaining).

7. HCC summer camper 2019: Bonnie Christie said that per her investigation, it is legal for the HCC to pay for a camper if it will support conservation in the town. A camper might make a presentation to his or her class. It should be a conservation camp. Unanimously approved the HCC continuing to send a Hopkinton student to an appropriate conservation camp.
8. Kimball Lake: Lee Wilder reported that the area is heavily used by local groups. Cabin #3 is almost finished. The town is now paying for a handicapped accessible Portapotty to remain on site.
9. Threatening pine trees at Brockway: Lee Wilder reported that the trees are not yet cut, but Jeff Dearborn has been contracted by the town to do the work.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Naming trails: A resident of Little Tooky asked that the new Rollins trail be named after a relative who was a long-time Tooky resident. Ron Klemarczyk said that when a trail has been named after someone, it was usually a person who had made a major contribution to the trail or project. HCC agreed that was a good policy and Ron will let the resident know of the policy.
2. Contoocook /North Branch River Local Advisory Committee request: Bonnie Christie attended a recent committee meeting and said the committee had received notice of a DES application to rebuild a house on Eagle Lane, in "little Tookie." The application includes rebuilding a deck extending over the Contoocook river bank. The committee asked for feedback from the HCC. Discussed that the deck was probably grandfathered. Asked Bonnie to relay the HCC's concern that the work should minimize riverbank disturbance.
3. Cross Road: Anna Wells, representing the Select Board, reported that the town has DES approval to remove the culvert that was installed last summer. She asked for HCC input on future steps to keep Cross Road from being flooded. Cleve Kapala said that the HCC has no jurisdiction over a town road. Rob Knight read the motion made by the HCC at the 10/21/17 meeting recommending that the Select Board preserve accessibility of Cross Road as a Class VI road while preserving critical wetland habitat. Discussed whether a flow devise might be a solution if they become allowed by pending RSA, and whether they would be allowed on private property.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Kimball Cabin.

James is the host.