

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
September 19, 2017 Meeting
Held at Kimball Lake Cabin

9/19/17 Minutes – Approved 10/17/17

Present: Lee Wilder, Rob Knight, Ron Klemarczyk, Bob Lapree, Cleve Kapala, Jed Merrow
Alternate: Jonathan Bradstreet
Guests: Garrett Rizzo and his mother Pam
Meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Chairperson Lee Wilder.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
2. HCC minutes of 6/20/17: Approved as corrected.
3. Treasurer's report for August was approved as presented. Approved reimbursement to Bob Lapree of \$75 for lumber for improvements to boat ramp at Bohanan Farm.
4. Trail subcommittee update: Cleve Kapala reported that the Putney Hill to Cross Road trail is almost finished. Ron Klemarczyk has done a preliminary trail layout at the Rollins lot. There is a 60' wet area in the middle of the property which will need a boardwalk. Bob Lapree is in contact with the Concord to Sunapee Rail Trail group and is encouraging them to work on the far end of Stevens Rail Trail with stone to harden the trail.
5. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: No news from NH Audubon as to when they will be ready to close on the conservation easement.
6. Camp Barry: Garrett Rizzo reported on his week at Camp Barry. His session had a heavy emphasis on conservation officer work and law enforcement, almost like a boot camp. Garrett found this very helpful since he is considering a career in law enforcement.
7. Brockway brochure: Lee Wilder distributed copies of the new brochure.
8. Sheldon Lot easement boundaries: Foreco has not yet been able to set the pins for the exclusion area.
9. Possible conservation easement: Rob Knight reported that the landowner is unhappy being responsible for the transaction costs (except the Stewardship Donation of \$7,500 which the HCC has agreed to pay on the landowner's behalf). Transaction costs for legal are estimated at \$2,500 and there will be expenses for survey and boundary marking. Discussion followed, with the conclusion that the HCC is still willing to pay the \$7,500 but probably not more.
10. Warner River drainage basin protection: No report in the absence of Doug Giles.
11. House abutting Rollins property: Rob Knight reported that the new property markers are still in place and the landowner is no longer mowing on town property. The property line is obvious and being respected.
12. Bohanan kayak ramp: Bob Lapree has added wooden cleats to the ramp, improving the footing.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Rail Trail relics: Bob Lapree had been approached by the Contoocook Depot Association asking if three concrete rail rests on the Stevens Rail Trail could be moved to the depot in Contoocook. This request was unanimously approved. Ron Klemarczyk suggested that they get the mile marker from Mast Yard. One mile marker has already been stolen.
2. HCC 2018 town budget: Budget request is due 10/13. Agreed that Jed Merrow will submit the same budget request as last year.
3. Hopkinton Chamber of Commerce event 10/18/2017 at Kimball Lake: Lee Wilder reports that the Chamber wants to hold their monthly event 5:30 – 7:30 at Kimball Cabin. The Rec Department will host, but the Trails Committee and Cabin Committee should send representatives.

4. Annual monitoring of conservation parcels: Lee Wilder and Rob Knight will do the monitoring, and invited Jonathan Bradstreet to accompany them so another person is familiar with the process.
5. Master Plan maps: Drafts of the maps for the revised Master Plan will soon be available at the Planning Office and Lee Wilder and Ron Klemarczyk will review them for accuracy.
6. Election of Officers: The present slate of HCC officers was reelected for another term by acclain.
7. Conservation Lands website hosting costs: The present website costs \$137 per year which could be saved if it was on the town website. Lee Wilder will talk with Neal Cass and Kathy Barnes to see if that would be feasible. There was concern whether the HCC would be able to access our website if Kathy Barnes were not available. Bob LaPree will review the HCC page on the town website and make a list of changes that the town's website administrator should make.
8. Land acquisition: Lee Wilder and other HCC members will attend the Cemetery Commission meeting on Thursday 9/21/17 to discuss working together to acquire property abutting the New Cemetery and Kimball Lake.
9. Agricultural land protection: Bob Lapree reported that a local farmer is interested in placing a conservation easement on a 56 acre field. This would be a purchased easement. The Open Space Committee has evaluated the parcel and is strongly supportive. Approved up to \$3,000 for the OSC to obtain an appraisal of the value of the conservation easement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 17 at 7 PM at the yurt at Owens Farm.

Jed is the host.