

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
October 17, 2017 Meeting
Held at Kimball Lake Cabin

10/17/17 Minutes – Approved 11/14/17

Present: Lee Wilder, Rob Knight, Ron Klemarczyk, Bob Lapree, Cleve Kapala, Jed Merrow

Alternates: Jonathan Bradstreet, Melissa Jones

Guests: Don Houston, Dave Dufault

Meeting was called to order at 7:55 by Chairperson Lee Wilder, after a tour of the Owen Farm Yurt at 7 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
2. HCC minutes of 9/19/17: Approved.
3. Treasurer's report for September was approved as presented. Approved payment of \$335 annual dues to the NHACC. The Conservation Account will be receiving \$1,785 in land use transfer tax.
4. HCC annual budget: A budget of \$1,420 was submitted by Jed Merrow
5. Trail subcommittee update: Cleve Kapala reported that the Putney Hill to Cross Road trail is cut and blazed. Ron Klemarczyk has flagged the trail at the Rollins lot and will organize a work group to cut the trail.
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. Sheldon Lot easement boundaries: Foreco has not yet been able to set the pins for the exclusion area.
8. Possible conservation easement: Rob Knight has met with the landowner and the landowner is considering payment to Five Rivers of transaction costs of \$2,500.
9. Bohanan kayak ramp: Bob Lapree will organize a work party in a couple of weeks to pull the ramp for the winter.
10. New Cemetery lot: Lee Wilder and Rob Knight met with the abutting landowners who are interested in purchasing part of the lot. Cemetery Committee has not yet committed to the purchase.
11. Beaver dam on Cross Road: Don Houston and Dave Dufault asked the HCC's support for removal of the beaver dam built on top of Cross Road. Don Houston told the HCC that the dam and pond make a portion of the road impassible, cutting off access from Maple Street to his woodlot. Dave Dufault complained that the expanded beaver pond had killed many of his trees. In addition, Cross Road is partially blocked for public recreational use. Don and Dave are willing to remove the dam at their own expense, but need Select Board approval since it is on a Class VI road. Don and Dave report that the Select Board would like advice on the matter from the HCC.
After discussion, Bob Lapree made the following motion: Since Cross Road is a public right-of-way and the beaver dam is blocking public use of the right-of-way, the Conservation Commission encourages the Select Board to approve removal of the dam, removal or control of the beavers as necessary, and the cleaning, repair or replacement of the culvert. The Conservation Commission feels Class VI roads are an important recreational asset for the town and should be preserved.
The motion was seconded and approved, Cleve Kapala abstained.
12. Annual monitoring of four town held conservation easements: Lee Wilder will organize the monitoring as soon as the leaves have fallen. Rob Knight and Jonathan Bradstreet will assist.

13. HCC web page: Bob Lapree talked to Neal Cass about a new photo for the page, and is reviewing other needed changes.
14. Master Plan map drafts: Lee Wilder and Ron Klemarczyk have not heard back from Karen Robertson.
15. Mink Hills ATV trails: Rob Knight reported on 10/11/17 meeting at CNHRPC on overuse and erosion of Class VI roads and trails in the Minks. HCC requests that the Select Board consult with the HCC before permission is granted for ATVs/OHRVs to use any Hopkinton Class VI roads.
16. Warner River drainage protection: Lee Wilder reported that he believes that the application for the river's designation has been accepted by DES.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Logging Contoocook River lot: Ron Klemarczyk asked for an update on the status of the Economic Development Zone. He will ask Bob Gerseny for an update. Ron pointed out that the town should consider selectively logging the Contoocook River lot before it is swapped with the State.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 14 at 7 PM at Kimball Lake Cabin.

Bob is the host.