

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
June 18, 2019 Meeting
Held at the Kimball Lake Cabins

6/18/19 Minutes – Accepted 9/9/19

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

Alternatives present: Jonathan Bradstreet, James Newsome

Visitors: Peter Maciaszek, 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. Wildlife study at Hawthorne Forest: Peter Maciaszek, Antioch grad student, presented his findings from a natural resource inventory he did at Hawthorne Forest. Because of his camera placements he recorded only deer - no predators.
3. HCC minutes for 4/16/19 meeting: Accepted as amended.
4. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported the status of HCC accounts. Ron Klemarczyk presented a bill for \$1,842.04 for materials for the bridge on the Little Tooky trail. It was approved for payment from the Town Forest account. Ron was thanked for his work on the new trail and bridge.
5. Trail subcommittee update: The Trails Committee met 6/11/19. Cleve Kapala reported that the National Trails day hike at Hawthorne Forest was very successful with many young families attending.

Ron Klemarczyk explained the design of a five-car parking area at the Rollins lot / Little Tooky Trailhead. Estimate \$700 to hire a mini-excavator and a load of skim coat. Ron was authorized to spend no more than \$700 for a five-car parking lot. Ron hopes a kiosk can be done as an eagle scout project at a future date. We need a trail agreement with the Brynes to cover the side of the railroad bed that they own. The Trails Committee plans to have a grand opening of the new trail this fall.

Cleve asked for authorization to spend up to \$100 for aluminum trail signs. The Trails Committee was authorized to spend no more than \$100 on signage.

The new trail at Rollins lot will be called Little Tooky Trail, and the bridge will be called Klem's Bridge in honor of Ron's many hours of work on the new trail.

6. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: Rob Knight reported that the OSC suggested changes to the easement have been sent to Neal Cass for Select Board approval.
7. Houston Intervale conservation easement: Rob Knight, speaking as a representative of Five Rivers Conservation Trust, reported the survey is done and the easement has been drafted and reviewed. A tentative July closing is scheduled, pending receipt of mortgage subordinations and the funds from the NH Moose Plate grant. A public hearing by the Select Board is required before town funds can be spent on acquisition of an interest in land. The public hearing is Monday, June 24 at 7:30PM. Rob asked HCC members to attend. Rob reported that \$6,334 has been spent from the \$42,000 HCC commitment toward the project. Rob presented a Five Rivers invoice for \$35,664 for the remaining funds, which will be needed at closing. Payment from the Conservation Account to the Ransmeier and

Spellman escrow account was approved subject to BOS approval at the Monday hearing. Rob Knight abstained.

8. HCC share of change of use tax: Bob Lapree reported that Jim O'Brien feels the Select Board would support increasing the HCC share of the change of use tax from 35% to 100%. The change would need to go to town meeting for approval. The BOS needs a formal request from the HCC. James Newsome will draft a request to the BOS.
9. Ransmeier parking lot: Cleve Kapala reported that the town has postponed the work so there is time to do it right. Lee Wilder and Cleve Kapala met with Neal Cass to discuss options.
10. HCC summer camper 2019: Fee is paid and camper is all set.
11. Kimball Lake blueberry bushes: Bob Lapree oversaw the planting of six highbush blueberry bushes along the steep shore of Kimball Lake between Cabin #1 and 3. The planting was done by Beech Hill School students, when they came for their day at the KLC.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Pavilion at Kimball Lake: Lee Wilder reported that the idea of a covered pavilion at Kimball Lake is being discussed. The area is heavily used by picnickers. The idea was well received.
2. Contoocook /North Branch River Local Advisory Committee: Bonnie Christie said that DES has approved the application to rebuild a house on Eagle Lane, in Little Tooky. Bonnie has learned that rivers have a 0.25 mile protective zone.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

There will be no summer meetings unless circumstances require a meeting.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Kimball Cabins. James is the host.