

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
April 17, 2018 Meeting
Held at Town Hall

4/17/18 Minutes – Accepted 5/15/18

Present: Lee Wilder, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, Doug Giles, Bob LaPree
Alternates: Melissa Jones, Jonathan Bradstreet
Visitors: Amara Meister, Zander O’Keefe: HHS students on civics class assignment.
Meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Chairperson Lee Wilder

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mail and notices received by the HCC were circulated to the committee.
2. HCC minutes of 3/20/18: Accepted as presented.
3. Treasurer’s report: No report in the absence of the treasurer.
4. Trail subcommittee update: Cleve Kapala removed two fallen trees from the Greenway. Ron Klemarczyk said that the local Boy Scout troop would help with the Rollins trails. Bob LaPree reported on the discussion by the Select Board regarding the removal of the beaver dam on Cross Road. Selectman Bob Gerseny indicated the agreement by the abutters to have the dam removed had fallen apart, and Bob moved that the board rescind its earlier motion to have the dam removed. He received no second so the directive to remove the dam stands. The HCC reviewed their previous motions on the issue, particularly the 10/21/17 motion “The HCC finds a need for the town to preserve accessibility of Cross Road as a Class VI road while preserving critical wetland habitat. The HCC recommends the town consult with appropriate experts in order to achieve these goals,” which superseded the 10/17/18 motion. The HCC felt the 10/21/17 motion adequately expressed the commission’s position on the issue.
5. HCC and Trails Subcommittee webpages update: Melissa Jones reported the changes have been made. Bob LaPree noted what a good website it is.
6. Beyer Lot NH Audubon conservation easement: Rob Knight reported that a draft conservation easement has been received by the OSC and it will be reviewed soon.
7. Sheldon Lot easement boundaries: Ron Klemarczyk is working with Foreco staff to schedule the work.
8. Possible conservation easements: Rob Knight reported that Five Rivers received a deposit from the landowner to start the West Hopkinton easement. Unfortunately it now appears a survey will be an additional expense. Five Rivers has applied for a grant to help with the cost of the possible easement in Contoocook and should know the outcome in June. Ron Klemarczyk said he has located some bounds for the possible Contoocook easement, so a composite map can be prepared.
9. New Cemetery lot: Lee Wilder reported that the Cemetery Trustees are deciding whether they are interested. Reviewed the possible division of the lot between HCC, the Cemetery, and an abutter. HCC’s proposed share of the cost is 35%. Discussed the value of the lot and whether to proceed. No decision will be made until after the Select Board meeting 4/30 when it becomes clearer whether the Forestry account will be receiving income from a timber proposed sale at Contoocook River lot.

10. Warner River drainage protection: Doug Giles attended the final hearing for SB445 and the testimony was almost all positive. Now waiting for the final vote.
11. Logging Contoocook River lot: Ron Klemarczyk marked the timber and it is 170,000 BF of pine, with an estimated net value to the Forestry account of \$26 – 28,000. Unfortunately the Select Board has requested that the lot not be logged since they are concerned the lot will lose too much value and not work for the Hart Corner land swap with the State. Any available members of the HCC will meet with the Select Board to discuss this at 6:00 at the Board's next meeting, 4/30/18.
12. Posting Brockway/Carson properties against hunting: Melissa Jones and Doug Giles will help Lee Wilder with this.
13. Stevens Rail Trail: Bob LaPree has nothing new to report.
14. Vehicle trespass at Kimball Lake: The abutter has not seen vehicles crossing his property and feels there is no need for a stone barrier at this time.
15. Update Natural Resource Inventory: No update in the absence of Jed Merrow.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Friends of the Mink Hills: Rob reports that the group continues to meet, led by Nancy Martin and the Warner Conservation Commission. There has been extensive damage to Warner's Class 6 roads in the Minks by OHRV and jeeps.
2. Authorization to pay for a new OSC appraisal: Rob Knight reported that the OSC wants authorization to spend up to \$3,000 to appraise two abutting parcels (single ownership) that have been offered for sale to the town. The OSC feels the parcels have high conservation value. The HCC discussed the problem of paying for appraisals for purchases that may not go through. Agreed to authorize up to \$3,000 for an appraisal of the two lots, contingent upon the landowner agreeing to reimburse the cost of the appraisal if a sale to the town does not occur. Ron Klemarczyk abstained.
3. Appointments to the HCC: Lee Wilder, Jed Merrow and Bob Lapree have been reappointed to the HCC, and Melissa Jones has been reappointed as an alternate

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 7 PM at Kimball Cabin.

James is the host.