

Hopkinton Conservation Commission  
November 16, 2021 Meeting  
Held at the Hopkinton Town Hall

**11/16/21 Minutes** – Accepted 1/18/22

Present: James Newsom, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Jonathan Bradstreet, Alternate: Molly Hardenbergh

Absent: Melissa Jones, Bob LaPree, Bonnie Christie; Alternates: Juliana Dapice, Stephanie Kratsios

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by James Newsom.

1. HCC minutes for the 10/19/21 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.
2. HCC mail: The mail was circulated.
3. Treasurer's report: James Newsom reported that the Conservation account has \$42,150 after receipt of \$2,875 from one LUCT, and the Town Forest account has \$10,052. Ron Klemarczyk reported the Foote Lot timber sale netted \$15,000 for the Town Forest account. That amount is not reflected in the balance above.
4. Budget request: The Select Board has given initial approval of the HCC's budget request of \$1.00.
5. Town report: Lissa Jones will draft the HCC annual report, which is due 1/6/22. Lissa will also, as HCC Treasurer, prepare the financial report which is due 2/10/22.
6. Easement monitoring: Rob Knight reported that all the town's conservation easements have been monitored except the Herrick lots. This includes two LCIP funded properties (Brockway and Hawthorne); two properties with SPNHF executory interest (Rose and Janeway/Five Rivers); a town conservation easement (Moss); and a Drinking Water Trust Fund funded property (Tyler Landing).
7. Moss property survey pins: Rob Knight reported that the survey pins for the exclusion area at the Moss property were not set when it was surveyed 15 years ago, so neither the property owner nor the monitor know the location of the perimeter of the exclusion area, and it is impossible to properly monitor the property. Ron Klemarczyk said he will continue to discuss setting the pins with Foreco, but in three years Foreco has not had time to set the pins. Rob made a motion to authorize Rob Knight to contract with a surveyor to set the exclusion area pins at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Motion seconded by James Newsom and passed unanimously (Ron Klemarczyk abstained).
8. Archeological dig: The conservation easement on the property in question has no clause allowing an archeological dig, but permission could be granted by Five Rivers using discretionary consent. The process is somewhat involved and there are expenses involved. The organization wishing to do the dig should make the application to Five Rivers.
9. Rollins lot mowing: Ron Klemarczyk has received one bid and is waiting to get two other bids.
10. Town forest designation: Neal Cass agreed to add an article to the town meeting warrant designating the Cemetery lot, Tyler Landing, and the Horne lot as town forests.

11. Tyler Landing lot line adjustment: The abutter's request was discussed, but there was no motion offered to do a lot line adjustment.
12. Trail updates:

Ron Klemarczyk gave an update on several Boy Scout projects: the kiosk for the Little Tooky trail is complete and was dedicated. Clearing has started on a trail along the edge of Houston Field, after it was determined that the proposed trail would not be on an abutter's property. The project to replace a rotten 12' bridge at Hawthorne Forest will start in the spring.

Cleve Kapala found mountain bike jumps had been built on the Greenway trail off Old Putney Hill Road. James Newsom thinks he knows the likely suspect and will relay a message that the jumps need to be removed.

Rob Knight observed that the Brockway property is very scenic and has the remains of a trail system, but two bridges would have to be constructed in order to make the property accessible for hikers.
13. Milfoil in Kimball Pond and Kimball Lake: Action on a plan for control is on hold until spring.
14. Natural Resource Inventory: An illness prevented Jeff Littleton from making a presentation. He will be rescheduled for the December meeting. The benefits of an NRI were discussed versus the cost, and how an NRI would be used versus the town's existing natural resource maps and the resources on GRANIT. It was agreed that these would be good questions to discuss with Jeff Littleton when he makes his presentation.
15. Donation of a property to fund the purchase of conservation property: Rob Knight has been approached by a longtime resident of town who would like to donate a property to the town. The intent is that the property would be sold by the town and the proceeds placed in the HCC Conservation account, to be used for the acquisition of a town conservation property, ideally with the potential for recreational use. The gift could also be used for canoe launch improvements at Tyler Landing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM. Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on December 21, 2021 at the town hall.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.