

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
January 18, 2022 Meeting
Held at the Hopkinton Town Hall

1/18/22 Minutes – Accepted 2/15/2022

Present: Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Jonathan Bradstreet, Melissa Jones, Bonnie Christie
Alternate: Molly Hardenbergh
Absent: James Newsom, Bob LaPree; Alternates: Juliana Dapice, Stephanie Kratsios
Visitors from the high school: Izzy Holmes, Abby Allen, Arthur Martell

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ron Klemarczyk.

1. HCC minutes for the 11/16/21 meeting were accepted as amended.
2. HCC mail: The mail was not available.
3. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported that as of the end of December, the Conservation account has \$48,900 and the Town Forest account has \$26,600 after receipt of \$15,003 from the Foote Lot timber sale.
4. Town report: Melissa Jones has submitted the annual report and the fiscal report.
5. Rollins lot management update: The property is getting very overgrown, and Ron Klemarczyk is getting bids to mow it. The property is too wet to mow in the spring, and summer mowing will disturb nesting birds, so Ron will have it mowed in the fall of 2022. By then a mini-Brontosaurus may be needed, and it may cost more than the HCC authorized (9/21/21 - \$3,000).
6. Town forest designation: An article has been added to the town meeting warrant to designate the Cemetery lot, Tyler Landing, and the Horne lot as town forests.
7. Trails update: Ron reported that a trail has been constructed at Houston Field as an Eagle Scout project, so now there is a loop trail around the field. It is already being used by hikers and skiers.
8. Wetland zoning ordinance: The Planning Board intended to present changes to the wetland ordinance for approval by town election. Changes included adding a 25' setback, more definitions, and requiring all work to be BMP. Ron Klemarczyk, Bonnie Christie, and Bob Lapree went to the Planning Board and pointed out (as individuals, not on behalf of the HCC) that the HCC should have been consulted about changes to the wetland ordinance. The Planning Board agreed to put off any changes until next year so the HCC has time to add input to the changes.
By law, the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission can share a member.
9. Natural Resource Inventory: Bonnie Christie brought an example of an NRI from Lancaster, NH. It was organized into units by topic, and was very readable and well-illustrated. The NRI was done by Elise Lawson and cost \$5,000 plus an additional \$1,000 for printing. There was agreement that paying \$5,000 for an NRI like Lancaster's might be a good investment for the HCC.
Discussed how it might be used. The Lancaster report is something that might be read by a layperson. The NRI would identify areas that should be protected and their best uses. That would be useful for good zoning regulations. The Lancaster report offers recommendations at the end which is helpful.

Bonnie Christie was asked to contact three possible vendors (including Elise Lawson) to get proposals for a Hopkinton NRI similar to Lancaster's.

10. Public comment: Abby Allen suggested that an NRI should be online rather than printed, since that is the way people expect to access information these days. After discussion, agreed that any NRI should be in digital form as well as printed.

Rob Knight made a motion, seconded by Melissa Jones to adjourn to non-public meeting per RSA 91 A:3 II (d) Acquisition of real estate. Vote unanimous in favor. The Committee adjourned to non-public session at 7:52 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:25 PM. Rob Knight made a motion, seconded by Melissa Jones to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM. Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on February 15, 2022 at the town hall.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.