

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
April 18, 2023 Meeting
Held at the Hopkinton Town Hall

4/18/23 Minutes – Approved 5/16/23

Present: James Newsom, Rob Knight, Melissa Jones, Bob LaPree, Bonnie Christie, Alternates:
Katherine Mitchell, Stephanie Kratsios
Absent: Jonathan Bradstreet, Ron Klemarczyk, Molly Hardenbergh

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by James Newsom.

1. HCC public and non-public minutes for March 21, 2023 were accepted as presented.
2. HCC mail: The mail was circulated.
3. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported that at the end of March the balance in the Conservation account was \$148,630.07 and the Town Forest account was \$26,638.36. The only activity in March was interest accrual.
4. LCIP property monitoring: Joycelyn Duffy, from the state's Conservation Land Stewardship Program, made monitoring visits to Hawthorne Forest and Brockway Preserve on March 23 with Rob Knight.
5. Tyler Landing update: Rob Knight relayed a report from Ron Klemarczyk that Chuck Rose is ready to begin work on the driveway and parking area as soon as the soil is dry enough. There is a Boy Scout who is interested in doing the small bridge and trail as an Eagle Scout project. John Blackford, who funded the project, has been inquiring about progress. Discussed the desirability of completing the canoe launch this summer.
6. Trails update: The Trails Subcommittee has not been meeting. A Boy Scout completed a 50' plankwalk at Hawthorne Forest.
7. Saving Special Places: The only HCC attendee was Bonnie Christie, who attended the first session by ZOOM.
8. Zoning wetland committee: Plan to resume meeting soon.
9. Natural Resource Inventory update: Bonnie Christie had no update to report. Katherine Mitchell and Stephanie Kratsios have read the draft report and have their edits.
10. HCC Election of Officers: Bob Lapree nominated the present slate of officers for reelection, and Bonnie Christie seconded the nomination. The following officers were elected by unanimous vote: Chair: James Newsom, Vice-Chair: Ron Klemarczyk, Secretary: Rob Knight, Treasurer: Melissa Jones.
11. Update of the Master Plan by the Planning Board: The Master Plan is being updated in a new format relying more on appendices, and the Conservation chapter will need to be redone. The Planning Board has asked whether the HCC is willing to contribute \$1,500 toward the cost of having the CNHRPC prepare the plan. Discussed how the NRI could be used in the Conservation chapter. Karen Robertson will be invited to next month's meeting to discuss the costs and options.
12. Five Rivers' conservation planning: Rob Knight spoke on behalf of Five Rivers, explaining that Five Rivers is in the process of doing a regional conservation plan to help identify and prioritize conservation projects. Five Rivers would like to work closely with conservation commissions so the conservation plan reflects local priorities. There will be a regional

conservation planning workshop Monday, June 5, 6 – 8 PM at the Concord Community Center at 14 Canterbury Road in Concord. The HCC is requested to send a representative as well as other HCC members who would like to attend. James Newsom will check whether he can attend.

13. Wetland training request: Bonnie Christie intends to attend a two-day training workshop put on by UNH to learn to identify wetland indicator plants. She asked that the HCC cover the \$340 cost. Melissa Jones moved that the HCC reimburse the \$340 cost of the wetland training, Bob LaPree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
14. Fencing update at Transfer Station: Bonnie Christie reported that the Transfer Station manager is supposed to put up the fence to catch debris. Discussed the kind of fencing that the Transfer Station might use.
15. Roadside cleanup on Earth Day: Cleanup will take place 4/22/23 from 10 – 1PM, headquartered at the gazebo in Contoocook.
16. DES wetland crossing application: Discussed the application for a driveway stream crossing from Tom Morin, Stagecoach Road, which is needed for a proposed lot subdivision, and the negative impact on of stream crossings, particularly in this case where it is a tributary of Dolf Brook. Stephanie Kratsios moved that the HCC authorize Katherine Mitchell to draft a letter in concurrence with concerns raised in the 3/10/22 DES letter, and authorized James Newsom to sign it on behalf of the HCC. The motion was seconded by Melissa Jones and passed unanimously.

James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Stephanie Kratsios 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 8:47 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:58 PM. James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Stephanie Kratsios to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM. Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on May 16, 2023 at the Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.