Hopkinton Conservation Commission June 20, 2023 Meeting Held at the Hopkinton Town Hall

6/20/23 Minutes – Accepted 9/19/23

Present: James Newsom, Ron Klemarczyk, Melissa Jones, Bob LaPree, Jonathan Bradstreet, Bonnie Christie,

Alternates: Molly Hardenbergh, Stephanie Kratsios, Katherine Mitchell

Guests: Tim Bernier, Robert Saunders

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by chair James Newsom.

1. Approval of minutes tabled until our next meeting.

2. Tim Bernier (engineer representing landowner of the Brayshaw property on Briar Hill Road) presented the proposed work to be done to create a driveway through two wetland areas. This is a 121-acre property which was originally farmland but has been used mostly for forestry since the early 1900s. Ron estimates that the most recent logging occurred sometime between 1920-1940.

Tim said that two 18" reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) culverts will be used on the existing 40' access road and improvements at that section will impact 1,275 s.f. of wetland. The second wetland further up the driveway will have one 36" RCP and that this crossing will have a 4,630 s.f. impact.

Bonnie would like to do a site visit to get a sense of the wetlands on the property and Ron would like to see more of the property's wetlands delineated on a map so that the landowner doesn't assume they're not present. He said that an aerial (drone) interpretation would be adequate. Tim was agreeable to both requests.

Ron moved that the Conservation Commission Chair draft, circulate for comment and submit comments to DES and to the Zoning Board that the Conservation Commission has no major issues with the driveway plan but requests that the wetlands be mapped.

Jonathan seconded.

Motion was approved.

3. Robert Saunders of 2370 Hopkinton Road is considering changing some property lines to subdivide the existing 2 lots into 3 buildable house lots. To do this, a stream must be crossed to put in a residential driveway. This location has been "manipulated by man" over time and is the most logical spot, as it is the most well-defined part of the stream. There is approximately 140 s.f. of impact and there are no known threatened species.

Part of the agreement with the town to change the subdivision is to put 10 acres into a conservation easement which will probably be held by a homeowners' association.

Robert is asking the Conservation Commission to sign off on a minimum expedited Dredge and Fill application.

Ron moves to approve the expedited application.

Melissa seconded.

The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report:

The Conservation Account currently has \$148,635 with no activity over the last month. The Town Forest Account currently has \$26,627, with no activity over the last month.

5. **Tyler Landing:** Ron reached out to the Bohanans, and if the road were to be installed 25' away from the wetlands (and into the current hayfield), they would no longer hay the field or maintain it.

The Commission discussed other options for this part of the property, including mowing it, a Community Garden (which Ron said is a very complicated project) and a pollinator garden.

Bob reminded the group that we have funds dedicated to this property from the sale of the land off Currier Road.

Stephanie will research turning the field into a pollinator garden.

Ron will reach out to Chuck Rose about the road construction.

6. **Trails update:** Bob talked to Neal Cass about the parking problem on Burrage Road (cars are parking on the road rather in the designated lot across Penacook Road). We would need to put No Parking signs for ~200 yards on either side of Burrage Road.

Ron said that he, Rob and Cleve Kapala cleared some trees on the Horne property.

- 7. **NRI Update:** Bonnie has written a draft of an introduction to the document, which she will be giving to Katherine to review.
- 8. **Transfer Station fencing update:** Bonnie spoke to the Residuals Management Bureau at DES and they will conduct an inspection.
- 9. **CNBRLAC** requests \$250 from our Conservation Commission to help with their work to monitor and clean up rivers.

Bonnie moved that we donate \$250 to CNBRLAC Ron seconded Motion was approved

10. **Planning Board update:** Katherine reported that the landowner of 50 Old Stagecoach Road would like to do a land-swap in order to put in a house lot, which has upset the abutters. DES and Zoning Board approval has not been granted and the Planning Board did not accept the application.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Jones.