

Hopkinton Conservation Commission  
September 20, 2022 Meeting  
Held at the Hopkinton Town Hall

**9/20/22 Minutes – Accepted 10/18/22**

Present: James Newsom, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Jonathan Bradstreet, Bonnie Christie, Bob LaPree

Absent: Melissa Jones, Alternate: Molly Hardenbergh, Stephanie Kratsios

Visitors: Anna Wells, Director, Economic Development Council; Lucia Kittredge & Cleve Kapala, Trails Committee

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

1. Downtowns and Trails UNH study: The Economic Development Committee (EDC) would like to engage the UNH Cooperative Extension to conduct a study on how Contoocook and Hopkinton villages can use outdoor recreation to support the local economy. It takes six months and involves interviews, surveys, and a community forum. Cost is \$3,000. The EDC has agreed to fund \$1,500, and the Chamber of Commerce will be asked to contribute. Anna Wells asked for support from the HCC.  
James Newsom made a motion to authorize up to \$1,500 to support the Downtowns and Trails UNH study. Bonnie Christy seconded the motion. After discussion, Rob Knight moved to amend the motion to reduce the amount to \$1,000. Ron Klemarczyk seconded the motion, and the amended motion passed unanimously.
2. HCC minutes for June 21, 2022 were accepted as presented.
3. HCC mail: The mail was circulated.
4. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported by email that as of 8/31/22 the Conservation account has \$159,945, and the Town Forest account has \$26,605.
5. Natural Resource Inventory: Payment of \$1,000 to Elise Lawson from Watershed to Wildlife for the deposit was approved. Discussed the purpose of the site visits. Only three sites will require permission from landowners.
6. Tyler Landing boat launch: Rob Knight reviewed the background: the Blackford family donated a building lot to fund a boat launch at Tyler Landing as well as other town conservation work. The building lot sold for \$110,000. John Blackford has called Rob asking about progress on the boat launch. Rob feels the HCC needs to start working on a boat launch as was described to the Blackford family and suggested putting in the driveway and parking area as the first steps. No progress has been made because Ron Klemarczyk has been too busy to do volunteer work and the difficulty of getting competitive bids to do the driveway/parking area.  
Rob said he talked to Neal Cass who said the HCC is not required to get competitive bids for work, and it is so difficult to get competitive bids that the Select Board has been contracting work without competitive bids.  
Discussed management of the project. Ron Klemarczyk is too busy to manage the project on a volunteer basis, the way he has for many other HCC projects over the years. The HCC either needs other members to volunteer to manage projects or it needs to operate similarly to other towns and pay a professional to manage projects. The company Ron works for,

Foreco, provides these services to many area towns as well as Concord. Ron bills out at \$60 per hour. Agreed that to get HCC work done, the HCC needs to hire professional management.

The original budget was \$7,000 for the driveway and parking area, and \$13,500 for the entire project including a 24' bridge, paths and a kiosk. Agreed that due to the current economy, that budget is now insufficient and guesstimated that the project cost would be closer to \$20,000.

Rob Knight made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$20,000 for the Tyler Landing boat launch, including appropriate professional management of the project by Foreco. Bob Lapree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with Ron Klemarczyk abstaining.

7. Rollins lot mowing: \$3,000 was authorized for this work at the September 2021 HCC meeting. Ron Klemarczyk got two bids last year, both over \$3,000 and is still waiting for a third bid. Rob Knight made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$6,000 for mowing Rollins, including appropriate professional management of the project by Foreco. Bonnie Christy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with Ron Klemarczyk abstaining.
8. Class VI roads committee: First meeting is scheduled for 9/21/22.
9. Kearsage Ave – Houston Fields connection: Ron Klemarczyk reported that the town is still waiting for receipt of the donated connection.
10. Wilder Rock loop trail: Ron Klemarczyk and his wife feel that making the Wilder Rock trail into a loop would improve the hiker experience. Ron made a motion to authorize him on a volunteer basis to create a loop on the Wilder Rock trail. Bob Lapree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
11. Zoning wetland committee: Meeting is scheduled for 9/21. Ron Klemarczyk explained the difficulties of educating property owners about the buffer requirements and enforcing the regulations. And the burden of identifying wetlands for property owners of existing lots. The committee is considering a 25' setback. Bonnie Christie proposed that 25' is insufficient and the HCC should be giving more feedback to the wetland committee. There was a discussion of recommending a larger setback, perhaps 100', and the merits of establishing a required setback even though enforcement of the setback might initially be imperfect.
12. Reimbursement of \$400 forestry hose for the fire department: Ron Klemarczyk reported that the fire department damaged their forestry hose fighting a forest fire in Concord. In the past the HCC has paid for forestry related equipment for the fire department. The topic was tabled.
13. Hazard tree Brockway Road: Tree has finally been removed.
14. Use of town forests for education programs: tabled.

James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Jon Bradstreet 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 9:10 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 9:25 PM. James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Jon Bradstreet to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM. Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on October 18, 2022 at the town hall.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.