

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

12/20/22 Minutes – Accepted 1/17/23

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

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

1. HCC public and non-public minutes for October 18, 2022 were accepted as presented.
2. HCC mail: The mail was circulated.
3. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones had not received the latest financial information as of the time of the meeting.
4. Tyler Landing improvements: Ron Klemarczyk and Rob Knight have cut back the field edge so the driveway and parking area will have minimal impact on the field. It is ready for earthwork in the spring. The aluminum ramp at Bohanan Farm canoe launch will be moved to Tyler Landing to be used as a bridge across the ravine. Discussed the two refugee corn gardens. One plot was not used this past summer and it is unclear whether the other plot was used. Rob will contact Cathy Chesley to see if the farmers intend to use the plots in the future. There is mesh fencing around the plots and black plastic groundcover in the plots which will need to be removed when they are no longer used by the refugees.
5. Rollins lot mowing and invasive controls: The field has been brush cut by a brontosaurus. Ron and Rob cut the brush and saplings along the edge of the road. Discussed future management of the field. It is substantially infested with invasives. One of the reasons the town acquired the property was to maintain the views across the field. Regular mowing will control the invasives and maintain the view and may be less expensive than periodically bringing in a brontosaurus. Bonnie Christie moved that the field be mowed annually for the next two years, to control the invasives and maintain the view. Rob Knight seconded the motion and it passes unanimously.
6. Class VI roads committee: Melissa Jones reported that the committee has assessed all the Class VI roads in town, and Chair Thomas Lipoma is working on a policy for the Select Board. The status of most roads will not be changed, but the town meeting may be asked to change Graves Road to a Class A Trail.
7. Zoning wetland committee: Ron Klemarczyk reported that the wetlands committee and Planning Board have decided against presenting new wetland regulations at town meeting this year. They want more time to develop appropriate regulations.
8. Natural Resource Inventory update: Bonnie Christie reported that Elise is working on maps and the report. Per the timeline, the HCC should review the draft report in February.
9. Earth Day program: Bonnie Christie suggested cleaning up the trash along Deer Meadow Brook by the transfer station as a good HCC project. Discussed whether it could be part of the annual roadside cleanup and run by the Waste Reduction Committee or the Rotary. It is unclear how big a project it would be to clean up the bank next to the transfer station.

James Newsom 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 8:28 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:40 PM. James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Melissa Jones to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM. Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on January 17, 2022 at the town hall.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.