

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
February 21, 2023 Meeting
Held at the Hopkinton Town Hall

2/21/23 Minutes – Accepted 3/21/23

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by James Newsom.

1. Katherine Mitchell was welcomed to the committee and introductions were made.
2. HCC public and non-public minutes for January 17, 2023 were accepted as presented.
3. HCC mail: The mail was circulated.
4. Treasurer's report: James Newsom reported that at the end of January the balance in the Conservation account was \$158,365.62 and the Town Forest account was \$26,629.47. In March James would like to list the potential expenditures which the commission has authorized so the uncommitted and available HCC funds are apparent.
5. LCIP property monitoring: Rob Knight was contacted by Joycelyn Duffy, a Seasonal Steward from the state's Conservation Land Stewardship Program. She plans to make monitoring visits to Hawthorne Forest and Brockway Preserve on February 18. Rob will accompany her.
6. Class VI roads committee: As a result of the committee's work, there will be two warrant articles at town meeting: make part of Graves Road a Class A trail; and abandon Dump Road as a Class VI road so it can become a private drive as part of the transfer station.
7. Old South Road hearing: There will be a public hearing March 13 on a request to change Old South Road from Class VI to Class V. Rob Knight moved that the HCC present testimony, in person or in writing, at the March 13 hearing in opposition to changing Old South Road from Class VI to Class V, based on the scenic and recreational value to the town of Old South Road and protection of 106 acres of protected open space abutting the road. Bonnie Christie seconded the motion and it passed, six in favor and James Newsom abstaining. Rob was asked to draft a letter to be presented at the meeting and circulate the letter to HCC members before submitting it.
8. Saving Special Places conference: April 15 in Alton. The HCC will reimburse the registration fee for any HCC member attending the conference.
9. Zoning wetland committee: No update.
10. Natural Resource Inventory update: Bonnie Christie circulated a request from Elise Lawson for HCC input on the desired focus or goals of the report. Various goals were discussed and the following were agreed upon:
 - Create a document that can be incorporated into future updates of Hopkinton's Master Plan
 - Identify areas for future conservation efforts, and area of contiguous open space and wildlife corridors
 - Maintain inventories of natural and scenic resources, including aquifers and open bodies of water, and steep slopes and hilltops
 - Provide the Town of Hopkinton with new accurate, standardized coverages that can be integrated into the existing GIS database

- Increase awareness of the values of the characteristics of Hopkinton including forest and water resources, scenic view areas, recreation areas, riparian buffer habitat, and wetlands with associated wildlife habitat through public presentations and discussion.
11. Transfer Station trash along Deer Meadow Brook: James Newsom has drafted a letter to Neal Cass and the Select Board explaining the situation and requesting that a fence be put up to catch debris, the fence to be paid for from the DPW/Transfer Station budget. James will send the letter soon. The DPW/Transfer Station will clean up the trash as soon as they have time.
 12. Economic Development and housing: The Select Board is forming a housing committee and will be seeking public members to serve on the committee. The mission and goals of a housing committee were discussed at length.

James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Ron Klemarczyk 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 8:17 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:42 PM. James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Ron Klemarczyk to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on March 21, 2023 at the town hall.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.