

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

3/21/23 Minutes – Accepted 4/18/23

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by James Newsom.

1. HCC public and non-public minutes for February 21, 2023 were accepted as presented.
2. HCC mail: The mail was circulated. A wetland application for Stagecoach Road was discussed and it was noted that by the time these applications come to a HCC meeting, it is too late to formally provide comment from the HCC.
3. Treasurer's report: James Newsom reported that at the end of February the balance in the Conservation account was \$148,628.01 and the Town Forest account was \$26,633.55. There are approximately \$55,000 - \$60,000 in committed future expenditures which the commission has authorized. The Treasurer will provide an itemized list of the committed expenditures.
There was a Conservation Account charge of \$9,740 in February. This consisted of \$4,240 Granite State Land Management (mowing Rollins); \$4,500 SED Valuation (appraisal of a possible conservation easement); and \$1,000 UNH Cooperative Extension Service (our share of the economic study).
4. LCIP property monitoring: Joycelyn Duffy, from the state's Conservation Land Stewardship Program, has delayed her monitoring visits to Hawthorne Forest and Brockway Preserve to March 23. Rob will accompany her.
5. Old South Road hearing: At the public hearing March 13, the Select Board denied a request to change Old South Road from Class VI to Class V. Bonnie Christie attended the meeting and read a letter from the HCC opposing the change.
6. Saving Special Places conference: April 15 in Alton. The HCC will reimburse the registration fee for any HCC member attending the conference.
7. Zoning wetland committee: Plan to resume meeting soon.
8. Natural Resource Inventory update: Approved payment of \$4,500 to Elise Lawson. Discussed how the HCC will provide feedback to Elise on the draft report. All comments should go through Bonnie Christie. The HCC feedback will be discussed at next month's meeting.
9. Transfer Station trash along Deer Meadow Brook: James Newsom has sent a letter to Neal Cass and the Select Board explaining the situation and requesting that a fence be put up to catch debris. The DPW/Transfer Station crew will clean up the trash as soon as they have time.
10. Unsealing Minutes: Rob Knight made a motion to unseal the following minutes since the property acquisitions have been completed or are no longer contemplated: 4/27/21; 2/16/21; 12/15/20; 2/20/20. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Bradstreet and passed unanimously.

11. HCC Election of Officers: Postponed to next month, after the town elections and reappointment of HCC members by the Select Board.
12. Update from town meeting: Article 16 – regarding easements on town owned former rail line – was amended to require consultation with HCC.
13. Bill to abolish licensing of foresters and wetland scientists: The NHACC has prepared a letter that conservation commissions can send in opposition to eliminating licensing. Bonnie Christie moved to authorize the HCC chair to sign and submit the letter on behalf of the HCC. Stephanie Kratsios seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
14. Sponsorship of the NH Saves Button Up Program at the library: This is a workshop on energy efficiency. The HCC will be listed as one of the sponsors on the program flier. There is no cost to the HCC. James Newsom moved that the HCC be a sponsor. Stephanie Kratsios seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
15. NHACC dues: James moved to authorize payment of \$350 for our annual dues. Rob Knight seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
16. Sponsorship of the annual roadside cleanup on Earth Day 4/22/23: Three local businesses are sponsoring the cleanup, and HCC could also be a sponsor. There is no cost. Stephanie Kratsios moved that the HCC be a sponsor and have our name appear on the flier. Several HCC commissioners agreed to represent the HCC by participating in the cleanup. Katherine Mitchell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Jonathan 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 8:10 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:32 PM. James Newsom made a motion, seconded by Jonathan Bradstreet to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM. Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on April 18, 2023 at the town hall.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.