

Hopkinton Conservation Commission

November 17, 2020 Meeting

Held via ZOOM per the Governor's Emergency Order #12/Executive Order 2020-04

**11/17/20 Minutes** – Accepted 12/15/20

Roll call taken. Present: James Newsom, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Melissa Jones, Bob Lapree, Jonathan Bradstreet, Bonnie Christie, Molly Hardenberg (Alt), Juliana Dapice (Alt), Stephanie Kratsios (Alt),

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by James Newsom and James read a statement regarding the Governor's Emergency Order #12/Executive Order 2020-04 and how the meeting would be conducted online.

1. HCC minutes for 10/27/20 public and non-public meetings were accepted as presented.
2. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported \$66,636 in the Town Forest account and \$20,388 in the Conservation Account.
3. Budget request update: Melissa Jones said there was no particular reaction from the Select Board to our budget request.
4. Chesley purchase: Rob Knight reported on two new requests from the Chesleys. They were concerned about the impact of a parking lot on what they thought was a conserved field. Ron Klemarczyk offered to reduce the lot size to four spaces, which the Chesleys accepted. The Chesleys thought the LUCT would be waived for all their property, not just the lot being bought by the town. The Select Board agreed to waive the LUCT on all their property. Rob is working on putting the agreed upon changes in the deed and in a P&S addendum. The addendum will extend the P&S to January 15. The MOU has been signed. The grant funding still needs Governor and Council approval, and Rob is working on the required paperwork.
5. Easement monitoring: Rob Knight reported that he and Jonathan Bradstreet monitored Rose & Janeway (SPNHF) on 10/31 and all monitoring reports have been submitted. The only issue found was that the bounds have not been set for the exclusion area at Moss. Ron Klemarczyk said he will have Foreco (the original surveyor) set the bounds as soon as they have time.
6. Posting at Hawthorne: James Newsom received an inquiry about hunting on Hawthorne and a complain that it was not well posted. Bob Lapree said he had posted information on hunting at trailheads, but legally posting a property is very involved. Ron Klemarczyk said that he had posted Brockway some years ago and our no-hunting properties should be posted again but it is a lot of work. James will investigate No Hunting signs for posting at the Hawthorne kiosk.
7. Trails update: Juliana Dapice wondered about extending Woodwell Garrison neighborhood trails onto a neighboring property. Ron Klemarczyk suggested that an outreach by neighbors to the landowner might be more successful than a formal inquiry from the Trails Committee.
8. Annual report: HCC annual report is due January 7, and the financial report is due February 9. Melissa Jones will do the reports. Bob Lapree offered to provide a photo - either the New Cemetery property or Chesley.
9. NHACC annual meeting: Stephanie Kratsios, Juliana Dapice and Rob Knight attended. Stephanie learned the town should have an up-to-date natural resource inventory, including

a wetland inventory. The town's present inventory was done by the Forest Society 18 years ago and resulted in the maps and overlays hanging at town hall. Bonnie Christie feels they should be updated, but it will be expensive. James Newsom will see if there are Antioch grad students who could do it. The members who attended the NHACC meeting should submit receipts for the \$35 fee to Melissa Jones for reimbursement.

10. 199 Maple Street ZBA application: Bonnie Christie said the application is to create a new 13-acre lot. The property is near the center of Contoocook and has a beautiful stream and glade. Bonnie asked what is the proper role of the HCC in land use decisions by the Planning Board and ZBA. The HCC is the only town committee with a mandate to protect the town's natural resources. The HCC has the knowledge and resources to provide input to other committees on how proposed developments would affect the town's natural resources. The HCC will keep an eye on developments concerning the Maple Street lot.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on December 15, 2020.