

Hopkinton Conservation Commission

December 15, 2020 Meeting

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

12/15/20 Minutes – DRAFT

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. Warner River Local Advisory Council (WRLAC) visitors: Ken Milender, Chair; Mike Tardiff, CNHRPC Executive Director; Dave White & Linden Rayton, Hopkinton reps to the council. Ken explained the role of the local advisory council, which is to provide another set of eyes protecting the river and a quarter mile on each side. Like a combined conservation commission and planning board. The council reviews and advises on permits. The council has prepared a Corridor Management Plan which has two parts: a baseline and a list of action items. The plan is supposed to be adopted by each of the five Warner River towns, and incorporated into each town's planning regulations. The council is particularly looking for feedback on the list of action items. The WRLAC will hold an initial public hearing on the plan 12/17 at 5:30. The plan, survey results, action plan and ZOOM address for the meeting are on the CNHRPC website. Bonnie Christie would like to have the town's GIS maps show the river corridor boundaries as well as other wetland buffers.
2. HCC minutes for 11/17/20 meeting were accepted with several grammatical edits.
3. HCC mail: The mail was emailed to members by Neal Cass.
4. Shoreline protection act violations at Little Tooky: Ron Klemarczyk feels the Shoreline Protection Act does not work well with previously developed shoreline as in Little Tooky, leading to violations. Discussed the need for landowner education on the act and their responsibilities. Could the HCC develop an informational brochure and send it to landowners? DES has a good brochure which Bonnie Christy will circulate to commission members. Bonnie and Melissa Jones agreed to draft a flier on the basics of riverfront protection and a budget for mailing it to riverfront property owners, to be presented at the next HCC meeting.
5. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported \$66,636 in the Town Forest account and \$20,413 in the Conservation Account. We received \$4,245 in LUCT in November.
6. Chesley purchase: Rob Knight gave a brief background on the Chesley purchase and the \$63,500 Drinking Water Trust Fund grant. The P&S agreement has been extended to January 15 and we should be closing on the purchase in early January. Approval of the grant is on the G&C agenda for 12/18. The baseline report and management plan are drafted. The HCC needs to approve the management plan and disbursement of \$63,500 which was approved at the June 2018 meeting.

Rob moved to purchase the 5.7-acre Chesley property as a town forest, to be called “Tyler Landing Town Forest”, and authorize the expenditure of up to \$63,500 from the Town Forest account by Rob Knight for that purpose. And to authorize James Newsom as chairperson to sign the Baseline report if the report is not signed by the Select Board or Town Administrator. And to accept the December 2020 Stewardship Plan for the Chesley property as prepared by Ron Klemarczyk. Motion was seconded by Melissa Jones. Discussed the management plan, which is required by DES before they will disburse the grant money. Mountain biking is not specifically mentioned in the plan, and after discussion agreed to remain silent on biking.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Mowing the Rollins lot: Agreed that it is desirable to continue mowing the lot to maintain the view from Penacook Road. Since it has grown up since the last mowing, the cost would be about \$1 - 2,000. Discussed the best time to mow. The property is wet in the spring. Mowing in the summer disturbs nesting birds. Mowing is most effective if done in late summer or early fall. Agreed to revisit the mowing at an early spring meeting.
8. Brockway - abutter's request for a tree to be removed: James Newsom has received another request from the abutter to have a pine tree with a split trunk removed. James will pass the request on to the Highway Department since the tree is in road right-of-way.
9. Posting at Hawthorne: There are now two ‘No Hunting’ signs posted at the Rollins Road entrance.
10. Trails update: Ron Klemarczyk reported that the new trail off Stevens Rail Trail (“Hemlock Spur Trail”) is complete and is getting a lot of use.
11. Annual report: HCC annual report is due January 7, and the financial report is due February 9. Melissa Jones has the report mostly written and would welcome copy form anyone who wants to contribute.

Bonnie Christie 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 8:34 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:53 PM. Melissa Jones 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 8:55 PM.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight, Secretary.

Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on January 19, 2021.