

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
November 19, 2019 Meeting
Held at the Hopkinton Library Community Room

11/19/19 Non-Public Session Minutes – Accepted 12/18/19

Present: James Newsom, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Cleve Kapala, Melissa Jones and Bob Lapree

Alternatives present: Jonathan Bradstreet

Meeting went into non-public session by unanimous vote of the commission at 8:03 to discuss a possible real estate transaction.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Acquisition of a planned Chesley lot on the Contoocook River: Rob Knight reviewed the attributes of the lot: Prime agricultural soils, Highest Ranked in the State under the WAP, 1,100' of frontage on the Contoocook River, protection of farmland. Ron Klemarczyk and Bob Lapree reviewed the planned use of the property: provide better river access than at Bohanan Farm, hiking trail along the river.

Rob made the following motion:

Move to amend the HCC motion approved in non-public session on 6/12/18 to commit \$30,000 from the Town Forest account toward the purchase of the Chesley lot. The amended HCC commitment is up to \$70,000 of Town Forest account and Conservation account funds toward the Chesley purchase price and project costs.

Ron Klemarczyk seconded the motion.

Rob went over the revised budget of \$127,000 (attached), and said that with an HCC commitment of up to \$70,000, the lot could be purchased without needing any additional funds committed at a town meeting. The funds would come from the HCC and the DES grant with each supplying half the total - \$63,500. Discussed the \$2,500 staff and operating support for Five Rivers included in the budget. Rob, speaking on behalf of Five Rivers, said that Five Rivers had done work to secure the DES grant, and additional help might be needed from Five Rivers to actually secure the DES funds.

James Newsom asked whether it was appropriate for OSC members on the HCC (Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Bob Lapree) to vote on a recommendation coming from the OSC. Rob said the OSC was acting in effect as a subcommittee of the HCC in working on land acquisitions, and there was no reason OSC members should not vote, just as Trails subcommittee members vote on proposals coming from the Trails committee. James suggested that the HCC could form its own Land subcommittee. Agreed it would be helpful for James to come to the next OSC meeting to discuss how the OSC and the HCC could best work together.

There was a unanimous vote to pass the motion and increase the HCC commitment up to \$70,000. OSC members cast votes.

Cleve Kapala said that he felt properties purchased for full market value should not necessarily be named after the seller. Discussed that this lot might be called the Tyler Town Forest lot.