

## Hopkinton Conservation Commission

Minutes – August 18, 2021 - Accepted 9/21/21

Present: Ron Klemarczyk, Lissa Jones, Jonathan Bradstreet, Bob LePree, James Newsom

Guests: David White, Briar Hill Road; Tim Bernier, T.F. Bernier Inc.

- 1) Lot 240-051 Wetlands crossing. The Commission heard from Tim Bernier, of T.F. Bernier, Inc., surveyor for an applicant for a wetlands crossing for a driveway. The proposal disturbs approximately 510 sq feet of wetlands, uses an existing roadway, but upgrades the existing culvert from 8 to 18 inches, and leaves in place a nearby historic stone culvert. The applicant is seeking a DES wetlands permit and is working with the state archeologists, among others. Following the presentation, Q&A, and discussion, Ron moved, and Lissa seconded, for the HCC to waive its 30 day comment period for the planning board and/or wetlands bureau. Motion passed 5-0.
- 2) While Tim was present, Ron asked about a reference for an engineer to help with an erosion issue that threatens at least one home in the Meadows. Tim will provide the name/contact information to Ron who will work to get that reference to the owners or the home and the land at risk. The Commission discussed its role in balancing protection of the natural resources of town while helping our fellow residents. The Commission agreed that the statutory authority given to the commission does not provide an active role in trying to protect the house with rip-rap or some other engineering solution.
- 3) Minutes: The Commission tabled any vote on approving minutes from past meetings.
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Lissa presented the treasurer's report: Conservation Account: \$39,467.80; Town Forest Account: \$10,051.29. No new funds from LUCT.
- 5) Trails: Ron mentioned a situation of ATV use on the Stevens Rail Trail. He informed the town administrator. He has not followed up on the status of the use violation, but has not heard reports of recent issues.

An eagle scout is working on the kiosk for Little Tooky Trail.

- 6) Land: Ron provided an update on the logging of the Foote Lot. Only half has been done due to the extremely wet July. The logger hopes to get in for the remainder of the job this fall if dry enough, or winter if ground frozen enough.
- 7) Public Comment: David White brought it to the Commission's attention that there may be a milfoil outbreak in Kimball Lake. Bob would investigate to ensure identification of milfoil and not similar species. James will investigate mitigation options and state programs.

Post meeting update: James talked with the town administrator about it, who indicated that, yes, there is milfoil there, and that the town has done pulling in the past in an attempt to control

it and that it is likely time to do it again. Additional investigation on the DES website indicates that variable milfoil was reported there in 2004 and has been hand pulled since.

NH DES has an Exotic Aquatic Weed Infestation Prevention Grant, but the application deadline is September 15, which does not allow enough time to properly research control methods and costs for this grant cycle.

- 8) Other: James read an email from Bonnie Christie in her role as representative on the CNBRLAC. The CNBRLAC will be applying for a grant from the Open Space Institute for updating its management plan. She did not make a request for a donation or letter of support, but rather wanted to raise the issue so that we can discuss at an upcoming meeting. The commission indicated a strong probability for submitting a letter of support, and will discuss financial support upon the formal request.

Minutes submitted by James Newsom