

Hopkinton Open Space Committee
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
Hopkinton Town Hall 7:30 p.m.
Minutes – Approved 1/18/23

Administration

Present: Dijit Taylor, Lucia Kittredge, Ron Klemarczyk, Erin Vanden Borre, Sabrina Dunlap

Absent: Rob Knight, Bob Lapree

Upcoming meeting dates were confirmed. There will be no December meeting. 2023 meeting dates will be on Wednesdays and are as follows: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 13.

Old Business

October 13, 2022 public and non-public minutes were accepted.

Dave and Kathy Dustin, Lots 224-29 & 225-6 Conservation Easement (Five Rivers): Dijit reported that the Drinking Water Trust Fund awarded the project a grant of \$117,250. Based on the appraisal report, it is possible that the project will be awarded additional funds, up to a total of approximately \$175,000. We expect to receive confirmation from NH DES in December. An additional grant of \$25,000 to cover transaction costs is pending. The Dustins have offered to pay for half of the cost of the appraisal.

New Business

Review of Project Priority List: The Committee reviewed the list of suggested open space protection sites developed in May of 2003 and noted the number of parcels that have since been protected. The Committee also updated ownership information as needed. Committee members will consider possible additions to the list at the January meeting.

Education & Outreach Proposal: Dijit and Lucia recently met with a concerned citizen, who made several suggestions regarding work that could be done by the Committee to provide more education and outreach to the public. Committee members believe that these suggestions would be more appropriately addressed by the Hopkinton Conservation Commission, particularly if new members are added to that group.

Committee Membership & Succession Planning: The Committee discussed status of current members and role of the Committee in relation to the purpose for which it was formed. At the January meeting, the Committee will catalog the skill sets needed for the Committee to function effectively.

Updates

Wetland ordinance committee update: Ron reported that the committee's work is progressing nicely and that Karen Robertson is preparing a final version of their report. The committee is recommending a buffer zone of 25' – 75', but will defer to the Planning Board. Concerns remain regarding designation of

the buffer zone and how to enforce it. To that end, the committee suggests that a wetlands sign-off be made a part of the building permit approval process.

Class VI roads committee: Lucia reported that the committee has completed its inventory of the Class VI roads in town, how each road is being used, and whether any of the Class VI roads should be discontinued or converted to Class A trails in order to allow the Town to maintain them. The only likely candidate for conversion to a Class A trail appears to be the section of the Greenway between Briar Hill and Rollins Road. Thomas Lipoma will be making a recommendation to the Select Board on behalf of the committee in the near term.

Economic Development/Downtowns and Trails UNH study: Lucia reported that funding has been obtained through the efforts of Anna Wells, in cooperation with the HCC, the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Committee. Work is expected to begin in the spring.

Trails Committee: Lucia reported that Cleve Kapala has reached out to current trail stewards; all are willing to continue to serve.

Website & maps: Lucia reported that the COVID messages regarding masks and social distancing are being removed from the website.

Ron made a motion, seconded by Lucia, to adjourn to non-public meeting per RSA 91 A:3 ii (d) Acquisition of real estate. Vote was unanimous in favor. Committee adjourned to non-public session at 8:53 p.m. Committee returned from non-public session at 9:10 p.m. Ron made a motion, seconded by Lucia, to seal the minutes until the projects discussed become public or are removed from consideration. Vote was unanimous in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Erin Vanden Borre, Alternate

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 7:30 p.m.