

**Hollis Conservation Commission
Minutes of the March 6, 2024 Meeting
Approved as amended;
April 3, 2024**

Regular Members Present: Mark Post, Thomas Davies, Peter Band;
Alternate Members Present: Bernadette McQuilkin, Paul Armstrong, Kate Rydstrom.
Board of Selectmen Liaison: Tom Whalen
Staff: Connie Cain

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

In the absence of Joe Connelly and Paul Edmunds, Mark Post is acting Chair for this meeting.

M. Post appointed K. Rydstrom to vote in the absence of Joe Connelly; and B. McQuilkin to vote in the absence of Paul Edmunds.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - T. Davies

T. Davies shared that as of March 5, 2024, that the total fund that the HCC has is \$867,668.26 with \$10,000 set aside in a Stewardship Fund. He noted that the interest earned on the CD from February was \$4,494. M. Post clarified that around \$600,000 was in the CD, while the remaining funds at approximately \$200,000 are available to the HCC at any time.

Board of Selectmen Update - T. Whalen

T. Whalen reminded everyone of important dates coming up for the town. March 12, 2024 for the Town Elections, March 14, 2024 for the annual Hollis School District, March 16, 2024 is the Town Meeting, and March 19, 2024 is the COOP annual meeting.

NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

Potential Alternate Member- M. Post

M. Post introduced Tony Fowler as member of the public who is interested in the alternate spot on the HCC. T. Fowler approached the HCC and shared his background as a veteran, retired commercial banker, and his history of serving on different town and charitable boards.

B. McQuilkin asked T. Fowler what he was particularly interested in, regarding the conservation commission. T. Fowler replied that he felt that the HCC has to balance maintaining character but also dealing with the new change that will inevitably appear. He noted that the HCC has done a great job on advising the Planning Board and managing the resources.

2024 Roadside Clean-up Planning - M. Post

Brief discussion took place on advertising, the DPW's involvement and the sign-up sheet. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Invasive Treatment - M. Post

M. Post shared that they had received a quote from Full Circle Forestry for the treatment of the invasives at \$2,500. M. Post read an email that Joe Connelly had sent him regarding the payment. J. Connelly requested that the HCC consider voting to expend up to \$4,000 for invasive treatment for the calendar year of 2024, even though the quoted amount from Full Circle Forestry was only \$2,500.

B. McQuilkin shared that she will be working with Kerry Rickrode to apply for the Moose Grant Plate, which will be open for application in July of 2024.

Discussion took place on different payment approaches to cover the cost of the treatment plan, and of the timing of the expenditure.

T. Davies motioned to approve expenditure of up to \$4000 for the 2024 invasive treatment as discussed; seconded by M. Post. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried 5-0-0.

Property Clean-up - M. Post

M. Post shared that there were two concerns, the first of which was the BMX park, and the second is the junk car in Parker Pond.

Discussion took place on the clean-up of the BMX park, the involvement of volunteers, what tools would be needed, and the current condition of the property. They also discussed scheduling a clean-up day where members of the HCC could go and clean up the park by hand.

P. Band and T. Davies volunteered to take their trucks to the location and use that for transportation of the trash on the property. They decided that further discussion would take place in April on a clean-up date.

P. Band commented that the removal of the junker in Parker Pond would probably require taking down a few trees and winching out the junker.

C. Cain noted that Parker Pond is owned by the Forest Committee. The image that was sent out appeared to show the junk car was located on the boundary of the Ernest Hardy property. She suggested determining the exact location and consulting with the Forest Committee before any work occurs.

Correspondence - M. Post

There was no correspondence this week.

Water Siphoning from Surface Water - P. Armstrong

P. Armstrong shared that he had discussed the situation of private companies siphoning water from town ponds and water sources with the Fire Chief. He noted that they were still in conversation about that situation and did not have any further updates.

Moose Plate Signage - P. Armstrong

P. Armstrong noted that he placed the Moose Plate Grant Sign on Ludwig Siergiewicz Farm as required by the Grant program, and sent the picture to Joe Connelly.

Tree Management - P. Armstrong

P. Armstrong commented that there were several fallen trees in a roadway that he was unsure of if it belonged to the HCC. He noted that regardless they could be taken care of easily.

Law Property Request - P. Armstrong

P. Armstrong shared that he has spoken to Reggie Ouellette about the dog training. R. Ouellette had shared that he had stopped using the Law Property for training a few years ago. He also noted that the training does not include the use of firearms. He trains them mostly in the afternoons, but when it gets too hot, he trains them in the morning. He trains one dog at a time with the other dogs in crates in the car, and was fine with people going up to the dogs to meet them. He trains them from June to September.

Discussion took place on the leash laws for HCC lands, if it is business usage of town lands, and if there are changes to wildlife if there are dogs training on the land frequently.

M. Post noted that they would need to go back to R. Ouellette and share that if it going to be done, there would need to be a formal liability requirement etc. from the town. K. Rydstrom commented that they might make their decision before going to R. Ouellette, as that might be fairer to him.

MINUTES

Public Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024. P. Armstrong proposed amending lines 110-111 to read: "...and that our job is not to negotiate with the developers, rather to conserve and protect what we are supposed to."

P. Band motioned to accept the public meeting minutes of February 21, 2024 as amended; seconded by M. Post. All in favor; none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried 5-0-0.

Non-Public Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024 M. Post proposed changing one word on Line 74 from "sale" to "purchase."

P. Band motioned to accept the non-public meeting minutes of February 21, 2024 as amended and to keep the non-public minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to release; seconded by M. Post. All in favor; none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried 5-0-0.

122 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

123 *T. Davies motioned to enter into non-public session; seconded by M. Post. Members were polled, voting in favor of*
124 *entering into Non-Public Session were M. Post, T. Davies, P. Band, K. Rydstrom and B. McQuilkin, no members*
125 *opposed or abstaining. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0 and the HCC entered into Non-Public Session at 7:38*
126 *pm.*

127
128 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

129 *M. Post motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to*
130 *release, seconded by T. Davies. Members were polled, voting in favor of concluding the Non-Public Session were M.*
131 *Post, T. Davies, P. Band, K. Rydstrom and B. McQuilkin no members opposed or abstaining. The motion carried by*
132 *a vote of 5-0-0 and the HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 7:43pm.*

133
134 **ADJOURNMENT**

135 *M. Post motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by B. McQuilkin. All in favor, none opposed or abstained.*
136 *Motion carried 5-0-0, and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.*

137
138 Respectfully Submitted,
139 Amice Le Doux
140 Recording Secretary