# **Hollis Agricultural Commission**

Thursday, May 13th, 2021

# **NAMES OF ATTENDEES**

M. Post, T. Hardy, D. Harmon, M. Madden, C Husk. & D. Petry.

#### **VISITING ATTENDEES**

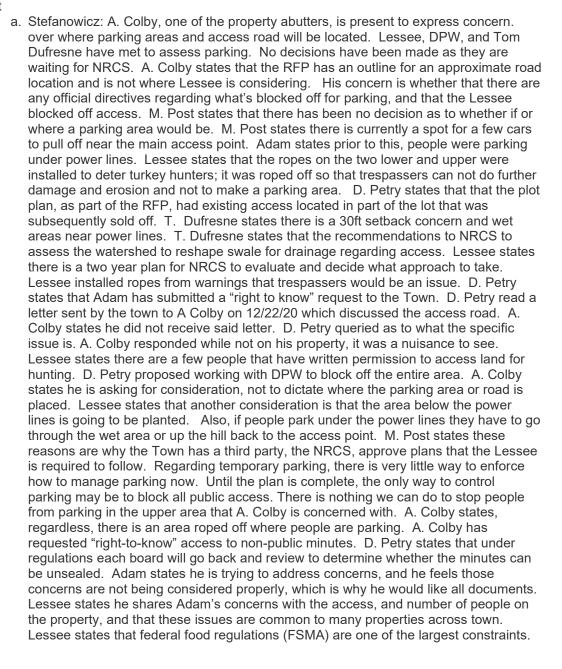
A. Colby, T. Dufresne

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 7:40pm.

# **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

I. Public Input





The ropes were not intended to be a parking area. Nothing is developed, and Lessee wants to work together with neighboring owners. Current roped area will block farm access. Everything that the NRCS outlines has to get approved by the Town, not the Lessee. Lessee brought up a similar situation in Woodmont on how they have the same issues with access. Lessee shares same concerns as A. Colby. M. Post restates, that in the short term, we possibly not allow any parking. In summary, there will be a plan that will come up front of Conservation for review that will be discussed in public, and there is currently no final plan. A. Colby is requesting a more structured process to where he can express his concern. A. Colby departed the meeting.

# **ENTERING INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

M. Post made the motion to enter into non-public session, in accordance with RSA 91-a:3 II (d). Harmon second, motion passed 6-0-0 and the commission entered non public session at 8:37pm.

# **RETURNING TO PUBLIC SESSION**

M. Post motioned to return to public session and to keep the minutes sealed under RSA 91-a:3, III. Harmon second, motion passed 5-0-0 (C. Husk departed during non-public) and the commission returned to public session at 8:56pm

# II. Continuing Business

a. Stefanowitcz: Town needs to prioritize installing boundary markers. D. Petry reiterated that the Town purchased the land to protect open space and rural character, but one solution could be to put a buffer of trees, and questions whether that would be desirable since it's an open field and it could obstruct that. Lessee stated that perhaps Meridian could supply a drawing. D. Petry states perhaps under the power lines could be a suitable area for parking. D. Petry suggests that once Lessee gets the plans back we have a public information session to inform public on where things are.

# b. Town Meeting Warrant Articles 17

I. M. Post expressed concerns that WA 17 would violate food safety farming requirements for town lands leased for Agriculture. D. Petry states there is a House Bill 307 that seems to allow fewer restrictions. The house bill will not get voted on until after Town meeting. M. Post states that Article 17 specifically requires permanent public access for all passive recreation, and the Town May not get future grants to purchase additional lands if there is unrestricted access. M. Post submitted a letter to the SB addressing the concerns of the Ag Comm. T. Hardy motions that the Ag Com vote to not recommend passage of Warrant Article 17, D. Harmon, second, motion passed 6-0-0. M. Post mentioned that there are financial implications that are longer in duration that one year, and queried whether it would require two-thirds vote. D. Petry requested that M. Post send a letter to moderator expressing concern to address this aspect.

# c. Recruiting

I. D. Petry mentioned a lead. M. Post mentioned Cheryl Quaine from joint working group may be interested. T. Dufresne mentions he has a lead. M. Post will follow up on leads.

#### d. Woodmont Sparrows

I. M. Post mentioned that Lessee is planning to leave an area suitable for birds unplanted, but that a designated permanent set aside is not appropriate as G. Coffey suggests. D. Harmon's understanding is that Lessee has informally set aside a few acres. T. Dufresne states top and back side of hill, is not too suitable for farming, and should be more than suitable to for birds. G. Coffey wanted a little more. T. Dufresne

is satisfied with the situation currently, but not sure the birding advocates are. T. Dufresne mentioned Audubon, NRCS, etc. seem to be not too motivated. D. Petry mentions that now a pollinator habitat is being requested in addition to the sparrow area. D. Petry states that his understating is the primary purpose of the easement is for agriculture, and wildlife is second. M. Post mentions that putting crops in the ground should not constitute a soil disturbance as specified in the section of the easement pertaining to excavation. Moreover, the entire area is a man-made habitat created by cutting down dead trees to prepare for planting. D. Petry states there needs to be a discussion with Nichols-Smith to state they don't have a right to designate anything. D. Harmon stated there are 27 acres of untouched land as part of Woodmont for wildlife use.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

D. Harmon motioned to accept the public minutes for the commission meeting on March 11th, 2021, T. Hardy second, motioned passed 5-0-0.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

M. Post motioned to adjourn at 9:26pm, D. Harmon second, motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by M. Madden, Secretary