

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

August 15, 2018

Approved September 5, 2018

Members Present: Tom Dufresne, Thomas Davies, Cathy Hoffman, Mark Post;
Alternate Members: Laura Bianco, Joe Connelly, Paul Edmonds, Karen Bridgeo;
Staff: Connie Cain
Guests: Peter Baker

T. Dufresne called the meeting to order at 7:02.

PETER BAKER

P. Baker wished to bring forward some items as a private citizen, and not as a member of any group. Stefanowicz Farm. P. Baker had proposed to both the Agricultural Commission (AC) and the Trails Committee (TC) to limit the Stefanowicz Farm to pedestrian only trails. The AC had felt it was a decision for the Board of Selectmen (BOS), Sherry Wyskiel of the TC was against the proposal. P. Baker would prefer to see a short trail system for walking, and animals/machines restricted. T. Dufresne felt that the use of machine-powered recreational vehicles on the property currently was minimal as the property does not link to existing snowmobile trails. If restricted, who would maintain? This is not something that the HCC should or could take on. Discussion continued on the subject of trail maintenance. J. Connelly felt that the public would be evenly split for and against limitations. M. Post noted that the AC asked what the need would be for such a trail, if there is not much use, they questioned why these restrictions would be necessary. Enforcement would also be an issue. M. Post felt that with proper planning and cooperation between the AC and TC, public trails and agricultural use can co-exist harmoniously on the property.

HCC Update for the Years 2010-2019. In 2009, P. Baker authored a document which detailed the HCC activity for the years 1998-2009. He asked if the HCC is considering an update to that document to cover the next 10 years. T. Dufresne felt that doing so for 2019 might be premature, as there are several items ongoing, but addressing for 2020 would be appropriate. He will discuss further with members. J. Connelly felt that the HCC Town Reports contain the information and it might be suitable to combine these reports into one as the update.

Howe Fields Conservation Easement. P. Edmunds noted that P. Baker had mentioned this in his list of items to discuss, and he wished to update all. Susan Knight at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been contacted in regards to applying for a new grant on the property, and the BOS have given permission to proceed with procuring the grant funding provided there are no changes to the documents as previously agreed. Ms. Knight stated that the US Congress has not yet approved funding for the next grant round, but expects it will be approved.

(P. Baker left the meeting at 7:25 pm.)

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Planning Board – Cathy Hoffman

C. Hoffman stated that the next Planning Board (PB) meeting will be on Tuesday, August 21, 2018, but there are two site walks to take place on Saturday, August 18, 2018. The first will be at 82 Runnells Bridge Rd at 8:00 am for a proposed 3 lot subdivision; the second will be at 451 Silver Lake Rd at 8:45 am for a site plan review for a proposed service shop. Both site walks are open to the public, and HCC members are encouraged to attend. While the August 21st PB meeting agenda is not yet available, C. Hoffman anticipates that the Lovering plan will be discussed again.

In the absence of Peter Band, there were no BOS updates, and the Treasurer's Report was not available at meeting time.

OLD HOME DAYS – September 15, 2018

T. Davies stated the booth has been secured. L. Bianco asked if the DPW had been contacted about the composting exhibit; T. Davies noted that Joan Cudworth of the DPW and Celeste Holm of BBA were working on a joint exhibit. T. Davies felt that something similar to last year's interactive exhibit would be appropriate, it was well received by the public and educational. T. Davies will contact LeeAnn Wolff for her input.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

T. Dufresne motioned to enter into Non-Public session to discuss potential land acquisition under RSA 91-A:3, II (d); seconded by P. Edmunds. T. Dufresne polled the members, all those present voted to enter into Non-Public session by a vote of 8-0-0. The HCC entered into Non-Public Session at 7:53 pm.

60 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

61 T. Dufresne motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to
62 release, seconded by P. Edmunds. T. Dufresne polled the members, all members voted to conclude the Non-Public
63 session and keep the minutes sealed by a vote of 8-0-0. The HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 7:59 pm.
64

65 **OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

66 *Pepperell MA Fill Site, Nashua Road*

67 As the area is outside of Hollis' boundaries, there is not much the HCC can do, but members are encouraged to write
68 letters to the Pepperell MA Town Administrator John Moak as private citizens.
69

70 T. Davies felt that the HCC should band together with other local communities on such matters, as aquifers, rivers, and
71 other features don't stop at the Town or State boundaries. The Nashua River Wild & Scenic River project is one of the
72 few that he is aware of that local communities worked together for the benefit of all. After some discussion, T. Dufresne
73 suggested that a HCC subcommittee be formed to look into the matter, T. Davies and J. Connelly will address this later
74 in the year.
75

76 *Duncklee Pond Plantings*

77 T. Dufresne has been inspecting the plantings that were done a few years ago at Duncklee Pond. The shrubs are doing
78 okay, and the roses are doing well. About 12 – 15 tires have come loose and are scattered about the property. T.
79 Dufresne will coordinate with the Transfer Station on the removal of the tires.
80

81 *Old City Trail Parking, Rocky Pond Road*

82 As discussed last year, the need for parking on Rocky Pond Rd at the HCC's entrance to Beaver Brook Association's
83 Old City Trail has been raised again. T. Dufresne will speak to the BOS on the matter. T. Davies stated that Brandon
84 Rackliff of BBA can meet onsite with T. Dufresne to mark the trees to be removed.
85

86 *Spaulding Lot Timber Harvest, Rocky Pond Road*

87 The timber harvest on this lot has been completed, with approximately \$30,000 deposited into the Town's General
88 Fund over the past two years. T. Dufresne noted that any profit from the proposed Siergiewicz Farm Timber Cut will
89 be used towards items recommended in the management plan per the BOS.
90

91 **MINUTES**

92 T. Dufresne motioned to accept the public minutes of the July 18, 2018 meeting as written; seconded by C. Hoffman.
93 All members in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0-0.
94

95 T. Dufresne motioned to accept the non-public minutes of the July 18, 2018 meeting as written and to keep them
96 sealed until such time the HCC votes to unseal the minutes; seconded by C. Hoffman. All members in favor, none
97 opposed, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0-0.
98

99 **ADJOURNMENT**

100 T. Dufresne made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by P. Edmunds. All members in favor, none opposed,
101 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.
102

103 Respectfully submitted,

104
105 Connie Cain
106 Staff