

# HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Meeting

May 19, 2021

Approved June 2, 2021

Regular Members: Tom Dufresne, Thomas Davies, Mark Post, Paul Edmunds, Jonathan Bruneau, Joe Connelly;  
Alternate Members: Laura Bianco, Karen Bridgeo.  
BOS Ex-Officio: Peter Band

(As times were not given on the recording, all times given are estimated. CC) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

## BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

### PLANNING BOARD

Bill Moseley, Planning Board (PB) Chair was to attend this evening's meeting, but had a scheduling conflict and is unable to attend.

In regards to the item brought forward by Joseph Garruba at the May 5, 2021 meeting, T. Dufresne met with PB Staff Evan Clements and Mark Fougere to discuss Mr. Garruba's suggestion that the HCC have more input on open space subdivision plans. If the open space is deeded to the HCC, then the HCC would have input. If not, the Homeowners Association would have responsibility for maintaining property. J. Bruneau asked how any violations on open space property would be addressed; any violations reported are addressed by Code Enforcement.

T. Davies asked if the HCC should be monitoring these properties, and if hiring staff would be within the purview of the HCC. T. Dufresne thought it would be an expansion of Code Enforcement and would be under the purview of the Selectmen. Additional discussion ensued about certain properties which have continued to have dumping and other boundary issues. P. Edmunds stated that the law states that if trespass on another's property occurs for 5 or more years, which could include dumping of material, trail construction, or other boundary issues, that part of the property could be subject to a presumptive easement. A recent Nashua Telegraph article on the subject was discussed.

K. Bridgeo felt that with all the new construction in Town it may be worthwhile for the Town to hire a person to be dedicated to addressing these issues. P. Band stated that the Selectboard would be willing to consider any proposals for a new position or contracting a firm to monitor, but would be difficult to get funding for a new position. Cost would need to be calculated, and a part-time position would garner more support than full-time. T. Dufresne stated that there is a large amount of work that the HCC needs to do, management plans needs to followed and created for other properties. Craig Birch has been a great resource, as he knows the properties and will advise as requested, but it is difficult for volunteers with full-time jobs and families to do everything that needs to be done. M. Post asked if the Hillsborough Co. Conservation Commission has any resources that could be used towards this; yes, but they are so understaffed at the moment, it would be low priority for them. P. Band stated that now would be the time to start reviewing a new paid position, as budget discussions begin shortly, and any proposal would need to come before the Selectboard and Budget Committee at that time.

T. Davies felt that any future land purchases should include the cost of property management as one of the factors in determining costs. T. Dufresne noted that the Ernest Hardy Lot purchase on Baxter Road was turned over the Forest Committee, so that while HCC funds were used towards the purchase, the Forest Committee took on property management costs. Further discussion in regards to financing future purchases, future property management costs, how this would be approved or appropriated as part of the purchase, annual property maintenance.

P. Edmunds volunteered to create a draft description for potential Property Management position, with T. Dufresne.

### SELECTBOARD

T. Dufresne spoke with the Board in regards to the Rogers property transaction; the Board is satisfied that this transaction will not impact the boat launch license, and have authorized the HCC to move forward. A public hearing for the property is to be scheduled for June 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### MOWING QUOTES

T. Dufresne received a quote from Brewer Landscaping of \$250.00 an hour to mow the Flint Pond field. The Coughlin-Merrill Lot is done by William H. Hall Jr. for an annual payment of \$200.00. P. Edmunds asked if the Hayden Road parking

area has moved forward; not yet, as other items have been pressing. T. Dufresne did speak with DPW Director Joan Cudworth, but has not moved forward. Siergiewicz Field will also need to be mowed next year. No Request for Bids is required as this job will not exceed the \$5000 threshold, but T. Dufresne would prefer that one vendor mow all three properties.

#### EXPENDITURES

Thomas Quinn, Attorney for the Town, submitted a bill in the amount of \$2033 for a title search on property under purchase consideration. This had been previously approved at the October 7, 2020 meeting.

Meridian Land Services has submitted a bill for surveying on the same property. As this was not previously approved, a motion to expend funds is necessary.

*P. Edmunds motioned to expend up to \$2600 in payment to Meridian Land Services for survey work done as discussed; seconded by T. Dufresne. All members in favor, none opposed and the motion carried 8-0-0. The bill will be submitted for payment to the Finance Office.*

#### 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 J. Bruneau. 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 7:33 pm.*

#### RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

*T. Dufresne motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to release, seconded by T. Davies. T. Dufresne polled the members, all members voted to conclude the Non-Public session and keep the minutes sealed by a vote of 8-0-0. The HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 8:12 pm.*

#### PUBLIC CONTINUED

##### *Hillsborough County Grant Opportunities*

A grant opportunity has reopened, and the Federal Government has pledged to provide up to \$80 million dollars over 2021-2022 of assistance to Hillsborough County for a variety of projects, including Conservation projects. There is a lengthy application for the grant, and it will depend on Federal approval.

M. Post felt that Flint Pond restoration might be a project that would be eligible. T. Dufresne stated that David Connor, Flint Pond Improvement Association, had been in and reviewed the HCC's file on Flint Pond and noted some missing information on the history. David stated that the logs put in the pond after the 1933 Hurricane were removed in the early 1940's and went to construct Fort Devens in Massachusetts. The circa 1985 plan to dredge and remove material from the pond to bring it back to its original depth of 30-40 feet would cost in excess of \$40 million, primarily to truck the material out and store it. The arsenic in the pond is not from the logs, but is naturally occurring, and considered bedrock seepage. The potassium is from agricultural and forestry use. The reason Flint Pond is so shallow is from peat moss, and the natural conversion from a pond to a bog.

Due to the absence of Connie Cain, the Wetlands Crossing Draft discussion was tabled to June 2, 2021 meeting.

#### MINUTES

*T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the public minutes of the May 5, 2021 meeting as written; seconded by J. Bruneau. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0-0.*

The May 5, 2021 non-public minutes were not available for review. These will be reviewed and voted on at the June 2, 2021 meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J. Bruneau. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 8-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Cain  
Staff