

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Meeting

September 1, 2021

Approved September 15, 2021

Regular Members: Tom Dufresne, Thomas Davies, Mark Post, Paul Edmunds, Joseph Connelly;
Alternate Members: Laura Bianco, Karen Bridgeo.
Staff: Connie Cain

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS

Hillsborough County Conservation District (HCCD) Annual Bulb Sale

J. Connelly reminded members that, last year, the HCC had purchased flower bulbs for the Upper and Lower Elementary Schools in Town as a way of supporting both the schools and the HCCD during the COVID-19 epidemic. This purchase allowed for the schools to hold a socially distanced COVID-19 event as part of their curriculum. Both students and Staff were able to plant one bulb each; students thoroughly enjoyed the activity, and the Schools had sent thank you cards and pictures. With this feedback from the schools, J. Connelly proposed continuing the activity this fall, and to purchase additional bulbs from the HCCD. After discussion, members agreed this was a worth-while expense and in keeping with the HCC's community outreach efforts; in addition, this allows the HCC to also contribute to the HCCD's fund-raising efforts. J. Connelly will purchase the bulbs and keep members updated.

T. Davies motioned to expend up to \$1200 for the purchase of flower bulbs from the HCCD for use by the Hollis Upper and Lower Elementary Schools; seconded by L. Bianco. All members in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.

New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) 2021 Survey

The NHACC recently sent out their annual survey to members, requesting feedback on how members have used their services over the past year, and if anything further was needed. The NHACC would like only one response per community. T. Dufresne brought forward the questions and responses were discussed. The last question asked what three items the HCC would like to receive further assistance with were given as 1.) Public events and Information sessions; 2.) Assistance communicating with property owners. T. Dufresne noted that Jonathan Bruneau had just emailed out information that Barbara Richter of NHACC had provided regarding owner outreach, which should help the HCC with that item. 3.) Training opportunities, especially for newer members. They also asked for recent success stories, T. Dufresne will provide some detail of recent acquisitions.

Tree Replacement on Town Common and Depot Road

Selectman Paul Armstrong had approached T. Dufresne for his assistance and input on replacing some of the trees on both the Town Common and along Depot Road. Recently, T. Dufresne and Selectman Armstrong, along with others, conducted an inspection of the trees with the State Arborist, who made recommendations on which trees to replace and the species that may be considered as replacements for those trees to be replaced. One of the trees in question is the large evergreen tree at the westerly corner of the common which is lit up during the December holidays. This particular tree is dying, and is rotting from the inside out. Discussion continued on the topic, which will still need both the Historic District Commission and the Women's Club approval before any further action is taken. Bids will be solicited, and irrigation may also need to be addressed. This is still in progress, and T. Dufresne will keep members apprised as the process continues.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

T. Dufresne motioned to enter into Non-Public session to discuss potential land acquisitions under RSA 91-A:3, II (d); seconded by M. Post. T. Dufresne polled the members, all those present voted to enter into Non-Public session by a vote of 7-0-0. The HCC entered into Non-Public Session at 7:44 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 M. Post. T. Dufresne polled the members, all members voted to conclude the Non-Public session and keep the minutes sealed by a vote of 7-0-0. The HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 7:53 pm.

58 **PUBLIC SESSION CONTINUED**

59

60 *Old Home Days*

61 T. Dufresne noted that Old Home Days (OHD) will be held on September 11, 2021. He will be at the booth all day, along
62 with T. Davies. P. Edmunds stated that he will also be available for a portion of the day, as well as L. Bianco. The
63 Agricultural Commission Booth will be next to the HCC booth, and M. Post will be at that booth. Members should let T.
64 Dufresne know if they are available and at what times via email as the HCC will not be meeting again before the event. K.
65 Bridgeo has the new map available from NRPC, and T. Dufresne will obtain apples for visitors.

66

67 *Beaver Brook Association All Access Trail*

68 T. Davies announced that Beaver Brook has created an "All-Access" trail, with the Grand Opening to occur on October 23,
69 2021. Amos White has been working on the trail construction, and it will be along the wildflower trail. This is in keeping
70 with Founder Hollis Nichols' desire that Beaver Brook's trails be available to all persons, regardless of their physical
71 ability.

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73 There were no Board or Committee Updates at meeting time.

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75 **MINUTES**

76 *T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the public minutes of the August 18, 2021 meeting as written; seconded by*
77 *P. Edmunds. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-*
78 *0-0.*

79

80 *T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the non-public minutes of the August 18, 2021 meeting as written, and to*
81 *keep them sealed until voted to release; seconded by J. Connelly. All members voted in favor, none opposed or*
82 *abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.*

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84 **ADJOURNMENT**

85 *T. Davies motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by T. Dufresne. All members in favor, none opposed, and the*
86 *motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.*

87

88 Respectfully submitted,

89 Connie Cain

90 Staff