

**Hollis Conservation Commission**  
Minutes of the May 4, 2022 Meeting  
Approved May 18, 2022

Regular members: Tom Dufresne, Thom Davies, Mark Post, Paul Edmunds, Karen Bridgeo,  
Joe Connelly,  
Alternate members: Bernadette McQuilkin, Peter Band  
BOS Representative: Paul Armstrong, Tom Whalen, Alternate  
Presenters: Jim Oehler, Certified Wildlife Biologist  
Staff: Connie Cain, Amice LeDoux

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Tom Dufresne.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES**

*TREASURERS REPORT – Thom Davies*

As of May 2, 2022, there is \$1,066,586.61 in the HCC fund and all but \$10,000 is available as cash for future acquisitions.

M. Post asked how much money has been received via the Land Use Change Tax over the past few years. C. Cain responded that she would have the information tomorrow.

Discussion took place on inflation and the challenges of development and landowners who want to sell their land to the HCC.

There were no Planning Board or Selectboard updates available at meeting time.

**NEW AND CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**TOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION – Jim Oehler**

J. Oehler shared with the HCC the forest management plan for the the Town Forest, which is made up of 575 acres and 12 tax lots. He explained that good forest management allows for better habitats for the wild animals. The plans would be to thin the trees to allow for more growth, removing invasives, protecting foundations, protecting historic resources, and maintaining authorized trails.

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

Sherry Wyskiel, Co-Chair of the Trails Committee, asked if J. Oehler had done other parts of the town?

J. Oehler responded yes.

Peter Baker, 40 Buttonwood Drive, asked if J. Oehler could put the presentation on the town website?

J. Oehler responded yes.

Peter Baker asked Is the Town Forest permanently conservation land? Craig Birch, Forest Committee member, responded no, it would depend on the deed language and any restrictions. If a property is able to be sold, a vote would need to be taken at the annual Town Meeting with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote.

T. Dufresne asked if Beaver Brook Association had issues with E-Bikes?

Peter Smith of Beaver Brook Association ( ) replied no.

J. Connelly asked what the Fish and Game Commission does when they see an unauthorized trail.

J. Oehler responded that they go to the Forest and Trails commission for that town.

P. Band asked how to decommission a trail?

J. Oehler explained that there are a number of methods, such as pulling lesser quality trees down across the trail so that they cannot be moved.

S. Wyskiel asked if she could see a list of what trails should be decommissioned.

J. Oehler explained that he wasn't the one to address about the decommissioning, that he just makes the recommendations.

T. Dufresne Suggested that a list of the known illegal trails be passed on to the HCC, Trails Committee and the Forest Committee.

Joe Garruba, 28 Winchester Drive, asked how it was determined the official versus unofficial trails.

C. Birch shared that the Forestry committee has official trails maps. He showed an example of an illegal trail sign.

Harriet Frank, 193 Rideout Road, would like to find a way for all to share and to have mountain bikers to help with cleanup of the trails with trees and rocks etc.

58 Tony Stanizzi, 201 South Merrimack Road, asked how they categorize the density of the trails.  
59 J. Oehler explained that the density refers to the number of trails in an area not the level of usage.  
60 Harry Russell, Trails Committee, asked about the impact versus the level of impact. He asked if there was a measurable level at  
61 which the habitats are impacted?  
62 J. Oehler responded that they do, and the research shows that the trails do show a measurable level of impact.  
63 Jane Edmunds, Trail Committee, shared that the general level of birds are declining, so how can they make sure that it is really  
64 the trails versus the general bird population?  
65 J. Oehler explained that the trails were monitored to show the impact regardless of the overall levels of birds dropping.  
66 Doug Sattler, Trails Committee, asked out of the list of problems that need solving, which one they should focus on.  
67 T. Dufresne shared that it was to decommission some of the unauthorized trails.  
68 D. Sattler shared that there needs to be a united approach, with developing guidelines to decommission trails. He also asked  
69 what are the priorities, wildlife sanctuary or recreational? What is the problem with E-bikes on the trails?  
70 T. Dufresne explained the varied classes of E-bikes and the dangers of some of them.  
71 Discussion took place between the members of the various commissions about E-bikes and their growing popularity along with  
72 the issues that they present to the trails regarding erosion and safety.  
73 H. Frank asked if there was education for people to know that the unauthorized trails are illegal.  
74 Discussion took place on the options for members of the public to be educated on trails.  
75 J. Garruba asked if roads have a wider disturbance area and if J. Oehler's analysis include this?  
76 J. Oehler responded that the research shows that there is less disturbance with roadways with cars, while the trails show a  
77 larger impact.  
78 T. Dufresne shared that they need an email or a written example of the unauthorized trails.  
79 T. Dufresne thanked J. Oehler for his help  
80 T. Davies shared that the challenge with the conservation commission land is the balance between wildlife impact and trail  
81 usage, as the job of the HCC is to protect wildlife first and then to ensure trail usage.  
82 S. Wyskiel shared that the Trails Commission has too many trails to maintain as it is and that they do not want more trails to  
83 maintain.  
84 B. McQuilkin shared some examples of how to educate the public on what trails are authorized and unauthorized and how to  
85 maintain trails.  
86 K. Bridgeo expressed that J. Oehler only shared his plan for the Town Forest, not the whole of the properties that the town  
87 manages.  
88 T. Dufresne addressed that J. Oehler had done other reports on the town land.  
89 K. Bridgeo shared the need for prioritization of various town properties and that on some properties the priority would be more  
90 wildlife and another more trails.  
91 Paul Armstrong called Recess at 7:58 PM  
92 T. Dufresne called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM  
93

94 **NOR'EASTER SNOWMOBILE CLUB TRAIL CLEANUP – Kevin Majeski**

95 K. Majeski shared with the HCC that the Nor'easter Snowmobile Club would like to work on trail improvement on several  
96 authorized and existing trails that run on conservation land. All the land is owned by the town or approved by the private  
97 owners. K. Majeski is applying for a grant and need permission from the HCC. The trail improvement will only be something  
98 that happens if the grant is approved.  
99  
100 T. Dufresne shared that Amos White will be doing all the work and that he is reputable and has done trail improvement before.  
101 J. Connelly clarified that they are existing snowmobile trails and that they are being beautified.  
102 C. Cain explained that the deed is with the town, not the HCC. So, the paperwork must be signed by the selectmen.  
103 Discussion took place on who to reach out to and what to say in terms of recommendations.  
104

105 **WORCESTER MILL POND CLEANUP – T. Dufresne**

106 T. Dufresne explained the need for a cleanup crew to take care of the trees and debris around the waterfall by Worcester Mill  
107 Pond. T. Dufresne would like to give authorization for this to get taken care off.  
108 Brandon Rackliff from Granite Mountain Tree Care shared that it would be an estimate of an 8-hour workday with a \$1500-  
109 2000 estimate, but he needs to go take a look before they can properly give an official estimate.  
110 T. Whalen asked if there was a way to cross over the waterfall prior to the trees falling.  
111 Peter Smith replied no.  
112

113 **ROADSIDE CLEANUP – T. Davies**  
 114 T. Davies shared that there were a lot of roads taken care of at the roadside cleanup. He thanked the Boy Scout Jacob Medina  
 115 All went well and there was lots of public engagement.  
 116  
 117 **LITTERING SIGNAGE**  
 118 Judy Gross, 10 Fieldstone Drive, shared the various things that they picked up and that to date her group has picked up 165  
 119 bags of trash. She asked if the HCC consider help paying for signage that brings awareness to the littering problem.  
 120  
 121 J. Connelly supports the idea to reimburse them for the cost of the signs that T. Davies had instead of paying for new signage.  
 122  
 123 T. Davies motioned to expend \$214 for the reimbursement for littering signs to be payable to Deb Lussier. Seconded by P.  
 124 Edmunds. *Voting in favor were T. Dufresne, T. Davies, M. Post, P. Edmunds, J. Connelly and K. Bridgeo, none opposed or*  
 125 *abstained. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0.*  
 126  
 127 **STEFANOWICZ PARKING**  
 128 Discussion took place on the moving of the stone walls in relation to creating enough space for parking, and it was decided that  
 129 it would be a better idea to keep the parking lot at the top of the property to not move any walls.  
 130  
 131 **RIDEOUT PROPERTIES, NASHUA RIVER, MBLU 010-034 & 015-001**  
 132 Jocelyn Duffy, the CLS land inspector will be coming out to check on the property. These inspections are done every 2-3 years,  
 133 due to funding from the former LCIP program for the purchase.  
 134  
 135 **TREE REPLACEMENT**  
 136 K. Bridgeo shared that would be important to have 3 bids for the arborists in order to have a RFP because they don't want to  
 137 have the Budget Commission questioning their purchase for the tree replacement. P. Band and P. Edmunds agreed. P.  
 138 Armstrong mentioned that there would be another arborist that they could reach out.  
 139  
 140 Discussion took place on the RFP and the need for getting bids from the arborists.  
 141  
 142 K. Bridgeo pointed out that there might be more people in town who might want to help out by purchasing the trees.  
 143  
 144 **BEAVER BROOK BANQUET**  
 145 K. Bridgeo invited the HCC to the Beaver Brook banquet on May 20.  
 146 Discussion took place on who would be in attendance.  
 147  
 148 **MINUTES**  
 149 *T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the public minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting as written; seconded by M. Post. Voting*  
 150 *in favor were T. Dufresne, T. Davies, M. Post, P. Edmunds, J. Connelly, and K. Bridgeo, none opposed or abstained. The motion*  
 151 *to approve the public minutes passed by a vote of 6-0-0.*  
 152  
 153 *C. Cain requested that the non-public minutes of the April 20, 2022 be tabled so that she can further revise the minutes prior to*  
 154 *a vote. T. Dufresne tabled the vote on the minutes until the May 18, 2022 meeting.*  
 155  
 156 **ADJOURNMENT**  
 157 *T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by M. Post. Voting in favor were T. Dufresne, T. Davies, M. Post, P.*  
 158 *Edmunds, J. Connelly, and K. Bridgeo, none opposed or abstained. The motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 6-0-0, and the*  
 159 *meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.*  
 160  
 161 Submitted Respectfully,  
 162 Amiee Le Doux  
 163 Staff