

Hollis Conservation Commission
Minutes of the November 2, 2022 Meeting
Approved November 16, 2022

Regular Members Present: Tom Dufresne, Thomas Davies, Mark Post, Paul Edmunds, Joe Connelly, Karen Bridgeo
Alternate Members Present: Bernadette McQuilkin, Peter Band, LeeAnn Wolff
BOS Liaison: Paul Armstrong;
Staff: Connie Cain
Guests: Kevin Anderson, Planner; Joe Garruba

Meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board Update – K. Anderson

The agenda was light. The Orde subdivision plan is in its final application phase and has met all the requirements. Interconnection of drainage pipes into the Nashua River would be used only for very large storms.

Toddy Brook application has turned into litigation against the town, which is public record. The Planning Board feels confident on their reasoning for why the application was turned down.

There may be a possible application for the Hollis Flea Market lot for a standard subdivision consisting of 5 single family homes on property which abuts the Flea Market site. The applicant would be different from those in the past.

Selectboard Update

There are no updates at this time.

Treasurer's Report – T. Davies

Expenditures for the month of October were \$5,570. Discussion took place on the nature of the expenditures being maintenance of the properties. The balance as of October 31, 2022 was \$1,233,650.34.

J. Connelly shared that the stewardship funding is \$10,000 every year and after speaking with Jacob Fitzgerald, the Town's Finance Director, he found that outside of title searches, property purchases, and land research, that every year the HCC spends approximately \$10,000 on other expenses such a maintenance of properties. HCC members agreed that keeping the stewardship fund at \$10,000 per year and not increasing it made sense, based on J. Connelly's research.

NEW AND CONTINUING BUSINESS

Law Property Agricultural Lease & Working Group

M. Post stated that the HCC and the Agricultural Commission have investigated the possibility of creating an agricultural lease on the property, and detailed the process which a working group was created between the Agricultural Commission and the HCC for the Stefanowicz Farm. The working group consists of Cheryl Quaine and Mike Madden of the Agricultural Commission and P. Edmunds and P. Band for the HCC.

K. Anderson stated that he appreciated the meticulous efforts to afford an agricultural lease on the property.

J. Connelly asked if the agricultural lease was something that the Law's were made aware of. P. Edmunds shared that he would discuss that with the Laws, but that Jack Law had shared that he would like it to be continued to be farmed. Further discussion in regards to other properties and possible recreational fields on other properties took place.

Toddy Brook Wildlife Reports

J. Garruba informed the HCC that, during his review of the Toddy Brook development plan, he had come across reports of sightings of endangered species on some of the surrounding properties. These sightings were noted as part of a Natural Heritage Bureau Wildlife Hazard Assessment. He wanted to make sure that the HCC were aware of these findings, and while not on the actual property, were in the immediate area of the proposed development.

Although the plan was not approved, the Planning Board required this study from the developer as part of the plan submitted, and J. Garruba felt it would be good for the HCC to review and become familiar with it. Wildlife Biologist Peter Spear authored the study, and while J. Garruba felt it was unusual in that it went off topic to a degree, discussing items such as job creation, he felt the HCC should be familiar with the assessment in the event that the HCC was called upon to provide a list of Wildlife Biologists they could recommend to the Planning Board. P. Band asked the date of the assessment; J. Garruba stated that it was done after November 2021. T. Dufresne felt that the HCC could comment on the assessment if the proposed plan comes back in front of the Planning Board.

Proposed Winter Seminar Series

K. Bridgeo shared a presentation on a winter seminar series and discussed what they could share with the community in a simplistic way that makes conservation more accessible and easier for the public. She suggested a title for the seminar series: "Local Biodiversity". Discussion took place on the marketing of the event, including website, social media, tag line, and logo. Douglas Tallamy is expected to be the first presenter via a live, dynamic presentation at the Lawrence Barn, dates and location are still being firmed up.

T. Dufresne motioned to support the 3 seminars for 2023, as proposed, seconded by P. Edmunds. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Discussion took place on securing the first speaker including pricing and dates.

T. Dufresne motioned to expend up to \$800 for the speaker's fees for the first seminar in the series of 3; seconded by J. Connolly. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Woodmont West Annual Site Walk & Drainage Swale

T. Dufresne shared that the annual site walk on Woodmont Orchard would be on November 3, 2022 at 10:00 am. Nichols Smith Land Trust, Hillsborough Conservation District and possibly NRCS will be joining. One item they will be reviewing is the completed drainage swale recently installed on the property, approximately 2,000 feet long and 40-60 feet wide. M. Post noted that the swale installation is anticipated to be beneficial to pollinators, and the hope is that it will create a habitat along the "banks".

Stefanowicz Farm Site Walk

T. Dufresne shared that there was an upcoming site walk with NRCS, UNH Cooperative Extension, Eric Radlof of Full Circle Forestry, and Hillsborough Conservation on November 18, 2022 from 1:30-4:30 pm, on the Stefanowicz Farm property. HCC members are invited to come to the site walk as well. Discussion took place on the agricultural acreage on the property and a wildlife habitat assessment.

T. Dufresne stated that a clear cut of approximately 20 +/- acres on the top of the hill to assist in controlling invasives is due to occur. This area was former farm fields, and will be row crops for the next 5 +/- years as the land recharges. The anticipated use after the recharge period is as orchards.

Reimbursements

T. Dufresne asked to be reimbursed for a purchase of plexiglass for the display at Woodmont Orchard event.

P. Edmunds motioned to reimburse T. Dufresne for plexiglass purchase for Woodmont West Kiosk in the amount of \$53.98; seconded by T. Davies. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion carried 6-0-0.

MINUTES

T. Dufresne motioned to accept the October 19, 2022 public minutes as written; seconded by T. Davies. All in favor, none opposed, P. Edmunds abstained. Motion carried 5-0-1.

T. Dufresne motioned to accept the October 19, 2022 non-public minutes as written; seconded by T. Davies. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion carried 6-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by P. Edmunds. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion carried 6-0-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amiee Le Doux,
Recording Secretary