

# Hollis Conservation Commission

Minutes of the May 3, 2023 Meeting

Approved May 17, 2023

Regular Members Present: Joseph Connelly, Paul Edmunds, Thomas Davies, Mark Post, Tom Dufresne, Karen Bridgeo, Peter Band.

Alternate Members Present: James Plummer, Bernadette McQuilkin, LeeAnn Wolff, Paul Armstrong

BOS Liaison: Tom Whalen

Staff Present: Connie Cain

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

## COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

### Planning Board Update

There were no updates at that time.

### Board of Selectmen Update - T. Whalen

T. Whalen shared that the BOS had tabled volunteer appointments for all Boards/Committees to the next meeting.

### Treasurer's Report - T. Davies

There were no updates at meeting time.

### Law Property Workgroup - P. Edmunds

P. Edmunds shared that Cheryl Quaine resigned from the Workgroup. P. Edmunds shared that they have to work on funding for trimming the tree line, as it is overgrown. P. Edmunds also shared that they are having the haying done and fertilizing on the fields. Discussion took place on the various lengths that the property could be leased, along with which leases could be more easily attained that would be effective for this property.

## NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

### Roadside Clean-Up - J. Connelly

J. Connelly shared that the event was fully staffed, and thanked the HCC for volunteering to help staff the event. Discussion took place on the busiest roads and the safety of the roadside cleanup volunteers. L. Wolff and B. McQuilkin volunteered to help on the busy roads like South Merrimack Road.

T. Davies shared that other towns have the DPW pick up the trash bags that are left on the side of the road resulting from the roadside clean-up. Discussion took place on the best course of action. J. Connelly and P. Band volunteered to take their trucks to pick up trash bags.

### Seminar Series Wrap-up - B. McQuilkin

B. McQuilkin shared that the next seminar was rescheduled to Tuesday, July 25, 2023, from 4:30 pm to 7:00, due to rain. She thanked Matt and Mike for their hard work. Discussion took place on future planning for future seminar series.

### Conway Properties Public Hearing - J. Connelly

J. Connelly shared that P. Edmunds would be presenting these properties at the upcoming hearing on May 17, 2023; P. Edmunds noted that everything was prepared for the hearing. Discussion took place on the requirements for the property, as it is an Agricultural leased property with a conservation easement.

### Siergiewicz Property - J. Connelly

J. Connelly suggested that they have an escorted walk on the property to have people understand the cleanup of the property. T. Dufresne suggested that they have a small group of people, mainly just the HCC so as to understand the property and have a better grasp of how to respond to the public when they have questions. L. Wolff volunteered to read the management plan and then walk people through it on the property to give a visual for what the plan accomplishes. Discussion took place on the parking area for the property and installation of the gate that has been purchased for the parking area. The gate has been purchased; T. Dufresne will contact Amos White to install the gate.

### Beaver Problem - J. Connelly

J. Connelly shared that the beaver situation on Federal Hill Rd has gotten worse and asked about what the consensus would be for the beavers; either a Beaver Deceiver or trapping and killing the beavers. Discussion took place on the options, and

which would be the best. The HCC would be responsible for paying for the solution. The consensus was that the Beaver Deceiver was the way to go.

#### **Water Documentary - P. Armstrong**

P. Armstrong shared that he had watched a documentary on the Merrimack River and how impactful it was for him. He thought it would be a good idea to share that documentary with the town in some way to bring awareness to the topic. Discussion took place on the various resources that the HCC could share that would be a good representation about environmental awareness related to rivers and water.

#### **Silver Lake Improvement Association**

J. Plummer shared that he and B. McQuilkin had attended the Silver Lake Improvement Association meeting and they are reviewing various grants, loans, and options. He also shared that a Watershed Management Plan seems to be the best option at this time.

Discussion took place on the options that might be helpful to mitigate the blooming of Cyanobacteria, along with the requirements for grants and loans. J. Plummer shared that the Silver Lake Improvement Association is assessing the options and looking at what would be most cost effective. He also shared that a Watershed Management Plan seems to be one of the best options at the time, because it isn't invasive, like a sewer system implant would be.

#### **Horse Trailer Parking - P. Edmunds**

P. Edmunds shared that in future he would like to address the parking issues on HCC properties regarding horse trailers, specifically for Birch Hill.

#### **PFAS - T. Davies**

T. Davies shared that he was receiving emails regarding PFAS. Discussion took place on how to approach this issue. J. Connelly suggested that they take the information they have and direct people to those sources.

#### **BURTON PROPERTY BASELINE REPORT**

J. Connelly shared an invoice from Craig Birch for the Burton Property Baseline Report, which is now complete.

*P. Edmunds motioned to approve payment to Craig Birch in the amount of \$340.00 for the Burton Property Baseline Report; seconded by P. Band. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the payment was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.*

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Discussion took place on a brief amendment on line 73 of the public minutes.

*J. Connelly motioned to accept the public meeting minutes of April 19, 2023, as amended by B. McQuilkin; seconded by T. Davies. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.*

*J. Connelly motioned to accept the non-public meeting minutes of April 19, 2023, as written and to keep the minutes sealed per RSA 91-A:3, II (d); seconded by T. Davies. All in favor, none opposed or abstained; the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*J. Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by T. Dufresne. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion carried 7-0-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amiee Le Doux  
Recording Secretary