

Hollis Conservation Commission

August 16, 2023 Meeting

Approved September 6, 2023

Regular Members Present: Joseph Connelly, Thomas Davies, Mark Post, Tom Dufresne, Karen Bridgeo, Peter Band.
Alternate Members Present: James Plummer, Paul Armstrong
BOS Liaison: Tom Whalen
Staff Present: Connie Cain
Also Present: Bill Moseley, Planning Board Chair

J. Connelly called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. J. Connelly appointed J. Plummer to vote in P. Edmunds absence.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

Planning Board Update - Bill Moseley

B. Moseley shared that the Planning Board (PB) had one case on the agenda.

The case brought before the PB was a continuation of the Flea Market development off of Silver Lake Road. B. Moseley shared that the applicant would like to have a 5-lot subdivision, and as there are currently 4 dwellings on the property, the change won't be too drastic. At the last meeting, the PB voted to extend the application as they were at 56 of the 63 days available for the application to be adjudicated. B. Moseley also mentioned that they needed to extend the application process to allow for more time in the planning stage so that the applicant could revise certain details regarding access, environmental safety for the wildlife off of Witches Spring, a landscaping plan, a cistern placement, and garbage clean up on the property by the wetlands.

P. Band asked about the type of garbage that was on the property; B Moseley answered that it was just trash.

T. Davies asked who the applicant was and asked about previous dealings with them and vetting. B. Moseley answered the applicant is the Purple Elephant Development LLC., that he could not recall any dealings with them in the past, and that he could not speak to the vetting aspect of the applicant, although he felt Kevin Anderson does a good job looking into possible applicants

Board of Selectmen Update - Tom Whalen

T. Whalen shared that the Selectboard approved the Law workgroup management plan.

Treasurer's Report - Thom Davies

T. Davies shared that as of August 15, 2023, the HCC has \$831,551.83 as the account balance; less \$10,000 for Stewardship, the available balance is \$821,551.83. T. Davies asked about the Land-Use Change Tax income in June; C. Cain state it was for the Toddy Brook excavation that occurred. Discussion took place on several bills that had been paid.

Law Property Workgroup - Mark Post

M. Post shared that the Selectboard approved the management agreement. J. Connelly thanked the Workgroup for their hard work on this project

NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

Ludwig Siergiewicz Farm Gate - Tom Dufresne

T. Dufresne shared that the guy who could install the gate quoted \$2,000 for the process. Discussion ensued about the gate location being near the parking lot, or in a more easily accessed location, along with who would be in the possession of the keys for the gate. J. Connelly thanked T. Dufresne for his help.

P. Band motioned to approve the expenditure of up to \$2000 to install the gate at the Ludwig Siergiewicz Farm property as discussed; seconded by T. Davies. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.

(T. Whalen arrived at 7:53 pm)

Old Home Days Planning - Joe Connelly

J. Connelly shared that Bernadette McQuilkin is in charge of the booth material, with interactive and interesting things to draw people in and educate. Discussion took place on the set up, including who would be bringing the tables, chairs, and banner.

T. Davies volunteered to bring tables and chairs; T. Dufresne volunteered to help set up the booth. J. Connelly will be sending an Excel spreadsheet out for people to choose a time to man the booth.

K. Bridgeo shared an updated number of pamphlets and posters that would be in the booth as well. Discussion took place on getting a new town map with updated property acquisitions in Hollis.

K. Bridgeo motioned to expend up to \$100 to have the Hollis Conservation and Recreation Map mounted on foam backing; J. Connelly requested an amendment to the amount of up to \$150. Amended motion was seconded by J. Plummer. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.

Proposed Property Management Checklist - Joe Connelly

J. Connelly stated that it would be helpful to create and use a checklist of all of the HCC properties to ensure that the property maintenance and other necessary items, such as mowing, are always taken care of, regardless of who the HCC members are. There is nothing written down as to which properties require annual maintenance and reporting, and as time goes by, people forget or new members are unaware of requirements.

T. Dufresne stated that not all properties which require maintenance are done yearly; it would depend on weather and other factors. Discussion took place on maintenance of the invasives along with the possibility of being stewards of the properties. T. Dufresne suggested that people volunteer for a stewardship of specific properties that they would like to be in charge of for a period of time to see if that works out well.

K. Bridgeo also suggested contacting the people on their mailing list from the seminar series and asking them if they would like to help with maintaining some of the properties. T. Dufresne mentioned that the abutters might want to help as well.

Upper Elementary School Request, Spaulding Lots on Rocky Pond Rd. - Joe Connelly

J. Connelly shared that the Environmental Science teacher at the Hollis Upper Elementary School (HUES), Roisin McElroy, reached out to T. Davies, and asked if she might be able to walk her classes over the Spaulding Lots, which are located behind the HUES for lessons.

Discussion took place on the scope of the property, along with the condition of the property where the old coal making factory was located. T. Dufresne volunteered to connect with R. McElroy. T. Davies volunteered to introduce T. Dufresne to R. McElroy.

Beaver Deceiver Installation Update – Joe Connelly

P. Armstrong and T. Dufresne drove by the Mill Pond Beaver Deceiver and mentioned that the deceiver was disguised behind a log. J. Connelly shared that the C. Cain had received a “thank you” email from a member of the public near Mill Pond thanking everyone involved for installing the beaver deceiver.

Seminar Series - Karen Bridgeo

K. Bridgeo shared that Bernadette McQuilkin had asked her to communicate to the HCC that she had spoken with the next speaker for the seminar series and had a tentative date of November 1, 2023 for the speaking engagement. B. McQuilkin had also already reserved the Lawrence Barn and that J. Plummer would be there for tech support.

Tax Deeded Land - Karen Bridgeo

K. Bridgeo asked what had happened with the land parcels that were Tax Deeded. J. Connelly responded that they decided against purchasing any of the land as they would have to purchase it at market value, which is something they could not afford. Discussion took place on the various purchasing options for the land, but due to RSA’s and the unique category that the properties in question are lumped in with, the only way for the HCC to own the land would be to purchase them at market value or bid in an auction if the Selectboard decided on that action.

MINUTES

The following amendments were made to the July 19th public meeting minutes:

Line 30: Reword the first part of the paragraph to read: “D. Petry shared that after the beaver deceiver was installed on the Hayden Reservoir, ...”

Line 49: Reword the first sentence to read: “P. Armstrong shared that other beaver deceivers in Town were done by different people, and we should consider alternatives. ...”

Line 88, correct Amos Woods to Amos “White.”

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

There were no amendments to the July 19th Non-Public Minutes.

J. Connelly motioned to accept the non-public meeting minutes of July 19, 2023, as written and to keep them sealed; seconded by P. Band. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

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(B. Moseley left the meeting at 7:39 pm.)

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

J. Connelly motioned to enter into non-public session; seconded by T. Dufresne. Members were polled, voting in favor of entering into Non-Public Session were J. Connelly, T. Davies, M. Post, T. Dufresne, K. Bridgeo, P. Band and J. Plummer; no members opposed or abstaining. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0 and the HCC entered into Non-Public Session at 7:40 pm.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

J. Connelly motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to release, seconded by T. Davies. Members were polled, voting in favor of concluding the Non-Public Session were J. Connelly, T. Davies, M. Post, T. Dufresne, K. Bridgeo, P. Band and J. Plummer; no members opposed or abstaining. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0 and the HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 8:10 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

T. Davies motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by J. Connelly. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion carried 7-0-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amiee Le Doux
Recording Secretary