

**Hollis Conservation Commission**  
Minutes of the September 6, 2023 Meeting  
Approved October 4, 2023

Regular Members Present: Joseph Connelly, Paul Edmunds, Mark Post, Tom Dufresne, Peter Band  
Alternate Members Present: Bernadette McQuilkin, Paul Armstrong  
BOS Liaison: Tom Whalen

J. Connelly called the meeting to order at approximately 6:31 pm.

J. Connelly was appointed P. Armstrong to vote in the absence of Thomas Davies, and B. McQuilkin to vote in the absence of Karen Bridgeo.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES**

There were no Board or Committee updates available at meeting time. The Law Property Workgroup updates will be moved to a quarterly update.

**NEW AND CONTINUING BUSINESS**

*Beaver Dams - J. Connelly*

J. Connelly shared that he had received an email from Joan Cudworth that updated him on the Rocky Bond Beaver Deceiver. The beavers had plugged up the outlet from Rocky Pond. Beavers have been more of an issue this year due to excess rain.

T. Dufresne inspected the beaver deceiver and that beaver activity had blocked the outflow. T. Dufresne unplugged it, but commented that the outflow was level with all the other debris and as a result could easily be blocked again. A brief discussion ensued about how to address the blockage. T. Dufresne volunteered to speak to Craig Birch about potential remedies.

*Rock Farm Wildlife Assessment - J. Connelly*

J. Connelly shared that the wildlife assessment had been completed and received today. He asked that members review the report and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. The first step, according to the assessment, was to treat the invasives on the property. T. Dufresne noted that the Rock Brothers still own the property and that they would need to approve any invasive treatment. J. Connelly asked P. Edmunds to follow up with the Rock Brothers in regards to approving any treatment or management. There are grant opportunities to fund invasive species removal.

*Siergiewicz Farm Gates - J. Connelly and P. Armstrong*

J. Connelly shared that he and P. Armstrong had spoken to Rob Boggis, Fire Chief, to discuss the gate installation on the Ludwig Siergiewicz Farm property; P. Armstrong will be following up with Chief Boggis on the positioning.

J. Connelly shared that Chief Boggis suggested purchasing a "Knox" box as a security measure for the gate. The Fire Department and HCC would hold the master keys. A brief explanation of how the box works, and what else what may be required for installation.

*P. Band motioned to approve the expenditure of up to \$300 for the purchase of equipment for the Siergiewicz Farm Gate as discussed; seconded by P. Edmunds. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.*

*Old Home Days Planning - J. Connelly and B. McQuilkin*

J. Connelly will resend the sign-up sheet with times. B. McQuilkin will be manning the booth for the entire day. B. McQuilkin shared the items she would have at the booth and noted that if anyone had some invasives they could bring, that would be helpful.

B. McQuilkin noted that the Town Map will be picked up on Friday, and she thanked Connie Cain and Karen Bridgeo for all their work on getting the Town Map ready for the event.

*Elementary School Request, Spaulding Lots on Rocky Pond Rd. - T. Dufresne*

T. Dufresne shared that he had sent the teacher an email and hadn't heard back yet.

P. Armstrong noted that there was a tree that had fallen across the entrance to the trail, and that it needed to be removed carefully and quickly. He shared that he had talked to Branden Radcliff about the removal and that it would cost \$250.

62 *T. Dufresne motioned to approve the expenditure of up to \$250 for the removal of the fallen tree as discussed;*  
63 *seconded by P. Edmunds. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.*  
64

65 Discussion of Conservation sign conditions at various locations; a member of the public has been cleaning these signs as  
66 needed. B. McQuilkin will inform him about the sign for the "Spaulding" properties so it can be addressed. Further discussion  
67 about Woodmont West signs as well.

68  
69 *Hollis Elementary Schools Bulb Project - J. Connelly*

70 J. Connelly shared that the bulbs that they have donated to the Elementary and Upper Schools for Fall planting have been a  
71 major success in the last 5 years and that Tara Happy, Environmental Science teacher, would like to do it again this year.

72  
73 *J. Connelly motioned to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,000 for the Elementary and Upper Schools Bulb Project*  
74 *as discussed; seconded by T. Dufresne. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of*  
75 *7-0-0.*  
76

77 Discussion took place on what bulbs would be best and how to decide; Tara Happy will be sent order sheet when available.  
78 In the past, J. Connelly has made the purchase, and has been reimbursed by the Town; will do the same.

79  
80 *Proposed Grant Workgroup - J. Connelly*

81 This was tabled due to inadequate information.

82  
83 *Nashua River Watershed Association Workshops - B. McQuilkin*

84 B. McQuilkin noted that she is on the first day of a three-day workshop with the Nashua River Watershed Association,  
85 participants took a paddle on the river. She shared that there were a lot of invasives growing in the river, paddling was difficult  
86 due to the large number of invasives, which are flowing into Hollis. She also commented that on December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Wild and  
87 Scenic Committee is hosting a charette for people who own conservation land in the area to come and share their experience  
88 regarding the rivers and invasives. She will provide additional details when it becomes available.

89  
90 *Silver Lake Management Plan Grant Update - B. McQuilkin*

91 B. McQuilkin shared that the Silver Lake Improvement Association was approved for the \$100,000 principal forgiveness  
92 loan. The next step would be a presentation to the Board of Selectmen and to provide sample warrant article language, as the  
93 loan will need to be voted on by the Town at Town Meeting next March. She asked that the HCC provide a letter/vote of  
94 support in favor of the warrant article so that they would have this to present to the Board of Selectmen.

95  
96 J. Connelly wanted to make clear that while the HCC may be a very interested party, the HCC is not the primary agency  
97 behind this loan, the Silver Lake Improvement Association is. The HCC is in support, but is not leading the charge in this  
98 matter. P. Armstrong explained further that the Board of Selectmen requested the HCC's consensus on the matter before  
99 making a decision; this was given. The Town, via the Board of Selectmen, will be the Town agency in this matter.

100  
101 J. Connelly thanked B. McQuilkin for all of her work on this and other Conservation issues over the past year.

102  
103 *Stefanowicz Farm Tree Cutting, Brookdale Fruit Farm - P. Armstrong*

104 P. Armstrong mentioned that on Pine Hill they had stopped cutting temporarily but will continue in November and December  
105 and that they would be removing invasives at the same time. Tree cutting will continue next year as part of the 5-year project.  
106 They did experience some crop loss this year due to excess rain, but are a little ahead of schedule on the project.

107  
108 P. Edmunds asked if they were still getting funds from the federal government. P. Armstrong shared that they were but that  
109 would be \$50,000 short due to some increased cutting and accessibility. M. Post felt that this is actually close to being on  
110 budget, due to the scope of work.

111  
112 P. Armstrong asked if a copy of the Pioneer Tree Cutting 1-year contract for the Burton property could be made available; J.  
113 Connelly will ask C. Cain for a copy.

114  
115 *Upcoming Meetings - J. Connelly*

116 November 1, 2023 is the next scheduled seminar, and speakers and locations have been lined up. Since that date is the same  
117 night of the proposed HCC meeting, J. Connelly suggested that the meeting schedule be changed for meetings only on  
118 November 15 and December 6, 2023, and January 17, 2024 for those months.

119  
120 *T. Dufresne motioned to update the meeting schedule as discussed for November, December, and January;*  
121 *seconded by J. Connelly. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.*

122 **MINUTES**

123

124 *Public Minutes*

125 The following amendments were made on the August 16, 2023 public minutes:

126 Line 50: Changing the word to “possession”

127 Line 69: Reword to “Hollis Conservation and Recreation Map”

128 *J. Connelly motioned to accept the public meeting minutes of August 26, 2023 as amended; seconded by P. Edmunds.*

129 *All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.*

130

131 *Non-Public Minutes*

132 The following revision was made on the August 16, 2023 non-public minutes:

133 Line 30: Reword the sentence to say “than .... was expecting.”

134 *J. Connelly motioned to accept the non-public meeting minutes of August 16, 2023, as amended and to keep them*

135 *sealed; seconded by P. Band. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of*

136 *7-0-0.*

137

138 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

139 *J. Connelly motioned to enter into non-public session; seconded by T. Dufresne. Members were polled, voting in favor of*

140 *entering into Non-Public Session were J. Connelly, P. Edmunds, M. Post, T. Dufresne, P. Band, P. Armstrong and B.*

141 *McQuilkin; no members opposed or abstaining. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0 and the HCC entered into Non-Public*

142 *Session at approximately 7:26 pm.*

143

144 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

145 *J. Connelly motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to release,*

146 *seconded by P. Armstrong. Members were polled, voting in favor of concluding the Non-Public Session were J. Connelly, P.*

147 *Edmunds, M. Post, T. Dufresne, P. Band, P. Armstrong and B. McQuilkin; no members opposed or abstaining. The motion*

148 *carried by a vote of 7-0-0 and the HCC concluded Non-Public Session at approximately 8:00 pm.*

149

150 **ADJOURNMENT**

151 *P. Armstrong motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by J. Connelly; all members were in favor, no members opposed*

152 *or abstaining and the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.*

153

154 Respectfully Submitted,

155 Amiee Le Doux

156 Recording Secretary