

Hollis Conservation Commission
Minutes of the November 15, 2023 Meeting
Approved January 17, 2024

Regular Members Present: Joe Connelly, Paul Edmunds, Mark Post, Karen Bridgeo, Thomas Davies
Alternate Members Present: Bernadette McQuilkin, Paul Armstrong
Board of Selectmen Liaison: Tom Whalen
Potential New Member: Kate Rydstrom
Staff: Connie Cain, Amiee Le Doux
Members of the Public: Casey Family

J. Connelly called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. He appointed P. Armstrong to vote in place of Peter Band and B. McQuilkin to vote in place of Tom Dufresne.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

Board of Selectmen - T. Whalen

There were no updates at this time.

Treasurer's Report - T. Davies

T. Davies reported that as of November 15, 2023, that there was \$861,409.20 available for use in their account, minus \$10,000 set aside for stewardship.

T. Davies also updated the HCC on the email correspondence between himself, J. Connelly, and Jacob Fitzgerald, Town Finance Director, regarding the potential for placing some of Conservation's funds into a Certificate of Deposit (CD) account. In his last correspondence with J. Fitzgerald, J. Fitzgerald had asked the bank about making the change to a CD. T. Davies noted that they had not heard back from the bank yet.

J. Connelly shared that he received the response from the bank several hours before the meeting and that he was told that a one-month CD pays 5% interest.

Discussion took place on possible penalties for early withdrawal of the amount put into the CD and the amount to put into a CD. There was also a brief discussion on the automatic renewal of funds within the CD. After the discussion, it was decided that they would place \$700,000 into a CD, as the HCC does not usually purchase properties within a one-month window and that they would not place an automatic renewal on the money yet.

M. Post commented that the move to a CD felt a bit rushed.

P. Armstrong motioned to place \$700,000 of the conservation's funds into a higher rate one month CD with TD Bank; seconded by P. Edmunds. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.

T. Davies will find out how the auto-renew policy with the bank works, and will report back to the HCC.

Law Workgroup - M. Post

There were no updates at this time, however, M. Post commented that they would be coming up with a proposed plan for the property and that they are looking to schedule a public information meeting in January or February. He also noted that the property was being cared for very well. C. Cain commented that the workgroup would probably be on the website in the next day or so. M. Post shared that he took minutes and that they would get them to C. Cain soon.

Discussion took place on potential invasive treatments on the property and the potential options within a lease agreement. M. Post clarified that the current situation is a maintenance agreement, not a lease agreement.

Grant Workgroup - B. McQuilkin

B. McQuilkin shared that Peter Band took over the organizing of the grant workgroup. M. Post shared that the meetings would start next month. He also shared that he would be going up to Concord with Tom Dufresne to meet with Tracy Bouvier to learn more about the grant writing process. Discussion took place on further education on the grant writing legality and process.

61 *Future Meetings & Agendas - J. Connelly*
62 J. Connelly shared that he had several meetings with Town Hall to make sure that he was getting feedback on the
63 meeting process. He shared that everything needs to be on the agenda beforehand rather than brought up at a meeting,
64 as the agenda tells the public what will be discussed at the meeting.
65

66 Discussion took place on the timing of getting items on the agenda. C. Cain noted there is a public policy for agenda
67 items on the HCC website; members should send items to the Chair who will decide if and when they will be placed
68 on the agenda.
69

70 **NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS**

71

72 *Casey Family Memorial Bench - J. Casey*
73 Jennifer & Zachary Casey, 95 Nartoff Road, shared a proposal for a granite memorial bench for her son, Alex, at the
74 end of the Flint Brook trail where Flint Brook meets the Nashua River on conservation land. She noted that the packet
75 she gave to the HCC members shared information surrounding the bench, the procedure of getting the bench into
76 place, materials used, measurements, and any other pertinent details. She also noted that the procedure for placing
77 the bench would not harm any vegetation in the area. The base would be made up of sand and gravel.
78

79 T. Davies gave deepest sympathies to the family. He asked if it was far enough from the river; J. Casey clarified that it
80 was 25 feet from the river. P. Armstrong asked if the bench was high enough to avoid flooding; J. Casey responded yes.
81 J. Connelly shared that it would be good to have someone from the Town with them to make sure it all goes smoothly.
82

83 Z. Casey shared that this was a place that was very familiar to their family and that another area resident shared that
84 they loved the idea for the memorial bench. J. Casey noted that she would be making sure that it would be well
85 maintained; she shared the significance of that trail and particular spot and why it would mean a great deal to their
86 family to have that be a special place to remember their son.
87

88 P. Armstrong asked about the process to get the bench approved. J. Connelly explained that the process would need
89 to be approved by the HCC, and then they would need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen.
90

91 *P. Edmunds motioned to accept the Casey's application of a granite memorial bench on the end of the Flint Brook*
92 *Trail; seconded by P. Armstrong. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-*
93 *0-0.*
94

95 T. Whalen commented that he would make sure that this was on the agenda at the next selectboard meeting.
96

97 *Ludwig Siergiewicz Farm Gate - P. Armstrong*

98 P. Armstrong shared that he and Tom Dufresne had been out to the site multiple times and that the only thing left is
99 to weld the chain and lock the gate. He made an appointment with a welder for November 16, 2023 to finish welding
100 the chain to the gate. He noted that he purchased the chain but that there was no bill for the welding or the chain at
101 this time.
102

103 *Nissitissit River Wild and Scenic River Council Workshop - J. Connelly*

104 J. Connelly shared that there was a council workshop coming up on December 15th and to sign up if they wanted to
105 join. He noted that he had forwarded the email he had received to the rest of the board members.
106

107 B. McQuilkin included an agenda in her packet to help make sure that people know what is involved in the meeting
108 and further shared some details about the various speakers and topics being discussed.
109

110 J. Connelly thanked B. McQuilkin for printing out the agenda for everyone.
111

112 *Hardy Field & Worcester Lot - J. Connelly*

113 J. Connelly explained that there was a BMX track that was created on conservation land behind Hardy Field soccer
114 fields off of Depot Road in the woods. He continued, explaining that he and Tom Dufresne thought that they could
115 demolish it themselves, but found that the track was so well made, that it would take a lot of labor to demolish. It is
116 much larger than anticipated and there was no way in that wouldn't disturb wetlands. He stated that the DPW Director
117 Joan Cudworth had inspected the property, and further involved the Police as there were alcohol remnants and
118 evidence of fires found on the property, which is a violation of town ordinances. She also noted that she would not be
119 able to get DPW equipment in to the track, due to wetlands and the weight of the vehicles.

120 M. Post asked about prevention and what steps they could take to investigate the situation. Discussion took place
121 about possible signage that could be placed up, and how to further investigate who was doing this.
122
123 P. Edmunds volunteered to connect with Capt. LaFlamme on the investigative aspect of the situation, as he is the one
124 in charge of the case.
125
126 T. Whalen commented to be careful with their response because this isn't the only incident throughout town of this
127 type of behavior.
128
129 *NHACC Annual Dues - J. Connelly*
130 J. Connelly shared that he had received a bill from the NHACC for \$500 for the yearly dues from C. Cain. J. Connelly
131 thanked C. Cain for her help keeping track of these payments.
132
133 *P. Armstrong motioned to pay the NHACC \$500 for the yearly dues; seconded by T. Davies. All in favor, none*
134 *opposed or abstained, motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.*
135
136 *Stefanowicz Farm - P. Armstrong*
137 P. Armstrong shared that Brookdale has two NRCS contracts and as a result they are required to have an annual
138 meeting with the town. They had the meeting recently and P. Armstrong shared that they were applying for one more
139 NRCS contract. They are looking to get a grant to put in a pond near the intersection between Pine Hill and Nartoff
140 Roads. They shared that the restoration is on or ahead of schedule, and that their invasive treatments would be taking
141 place in the Fall of 2024. They also noted their plans for stumpage removal.
142
143 Discussion took place on the invasive treatment details. J. Connelly thanked P. Armstrong for sharing the updates and
144 going to that meeting.
145
146 **MINUTES**
147 *J. Connelly motioned to accept both the public and the non-public meeting minutes of October 18, 2023 as written*
148 *and to seal the non-public minutes until voted to release; seconded by P. Armstrong. All in favor, none opposed*
149 *or abstained, motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.*
150
151 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**
152 *J. Connelly motioned to enter into a non-public session; seconded by K. Bridgeo. Members were polled, voting in*
153 *favor of entering into Non-Public Session were J. Connelly, P. Edmunds, M. Post, P. Armstrong, K. Bridgeo, B.*
154 *McQuilkin, and T. Davies; none opposed or abstained. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0 and the HCC entered*
155 *into Non-Public Session at 7:43 pm.*
156
157 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**
158 *J. Connelly motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to*
159 *release, seconded by M. Post. Members were polled, voting in favor of concluding the Non-Public Session were J.*
160 *Connelly, P. Edmunds, M. Post, P. Armstrong, K. Bridgeo, B. McQuilkin, and T. Davies; none opposed or abstained.*
161 *The motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0, and the HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 8:30 pm.*
162
163 **ADJOURNMENT**
164 *M. Post motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by P. Edmunds. All in favor, none opposed or abstained; the*
165 *motion was carried by a vote of 7-0-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.*
166
167 Respectfully Submitted,
168 Amiee Le Doux
169 Recording Secretary