

# HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2024

Approved February 7, 2024

Regular Members Present: Joe Connelly, Paul Edmunds, Mark Post, Thomas Davies, Tom Dufresne, Karen Bridgeo, Peter Band  
Alternate Members Present: Bernadette McQuilkin, Paul Armstrong  
Potential New Member: Kate Rydstrom  
Staff: Connie Cain  
Guests: Bill Moseley, Planning Board Chair;  
Paul Valihura, 273 Hayden Rd;  
Liz Barbour, Positively Hollis;  
Scott Pettengill & Paul Hines, Flint Brook Trail.

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

J. Connelly shared that James Plummer will be resigning from the HCC soon as he is moving out of Town.

## COMMITTEE AND BOARD UPDATES

### *Treasurer's Report - T. Davies*

T. Davies shared that as of January 16, 2024, that there was \$865,193.26 in the HCC account; with the \$10,000 in Stewardship, this leaves an available cash balance of \$855,193.26. He noted that they were in receipt of \$25,500 from the Land Use Change Tax. C. Cain stated that the Land Use Change Tax was due to a sale on the Keys Hill Development.

T. Davies noted that while Jacob Fitzgerald, Finance Director, has put a 30-Day CD interest line on the report, there has been no income recorded from it. T. Dufresne commented that it was probably because the CD had just started in December, and that it wasn't recorded yet due to it being a month-to-month statement. T. Davies stated he would follow up with Jacob on the rationale behind why the treasurers report doesn't show the CD income.

### *Planning Board Update- B. Moseley*

B. Moseley shared that the Planning Board (PB) was concerned about a development that is proposed between Proctor Hill Road and Deacon Lane. The PB has decided to pursue the Hollis Open Space Planned Development (HOSPD) style of plan, rather than the conventional option. One of the biggest concerns is where the road will come from Route 130. As a result, they are trying to get the transportation department to do an in-depth analysis of the situation and address with the PB at an upcoming meeting. He noted that he would be keeping the HCC updated throughout the Design Review process.

P. Edmunds asked about the number of houses; B. Moseley responded that there would be a maximum of 35 houses, however there are many items to be addressed before they arrive on a final number. There was a brief discussion of the HCC's authority or interest in the project. B. Moseley welcomed any questions or concerns that the HCC may have in the project, and stated that the project recommendation may later change from a HOSPD to a conventional plan, depending on the findings during the design review.

P. Band asked if there was any particular wording that PB would be using to go for town vote in March for any 2024 amendments to the Zoning ordinance; B. Mosely responded that they would have 7 amendments, 6 of which are proposed by the PB and the last is an ordinance change via petition that would also be going to ballot.

## NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

### *MOOSE PLATE GRANT – J. Connelly*

J. Connelly commented that he had received a check from Kerry Rickrode of the Hillsborough Co. Conservation District (HCCD) for \$625.00; this was in addition to the \$2500 received in December 2023. J. Connelly didn't see those funds itemized in the Treasurer's Report. C. Cain will follow up with Jacob Fitzgerald on the matter, and to make sure that the funds were deposited in the correct account, as they did not appear to be itemized on the report either. These funds are from a 3-year Moose Grant to cover half of the costs for the invasive treatment on the Ludwig Siergiewicz Farm, MBLU 046-051.

T. Dufresne asked if that was the last job the HCC had contracted with the HCCD for; J. Connelly confirmed that it was. T. Dufresne advised that the recently received \$3125 was a portion of the total \$15,000 grant received. A brief discussion took place on the grant program, and the possibility of more funding from the same.

J. Connelly noted that there are a few items to be completed as part of the Moose Plate Grant requirements:

- 1.) Signage to be installed on the property, along with a picture of the installation taken and sent. P. Armstrong will install and take photo;
- 2.) Second photo with the finished project document;
- 3.) Photo Permission form completed and submitted.

P. Armstrong noted that he had not received a reimbursement check for the itemized receipts he had submitted and that he did not have a receipt for the welding that was done for the Siergiewicz gate. Discussion took place on the requirement for proper receipts, and the previous approval to reimburse P. Armstrong on December 6, 2023 was revised to \$45.55.

#### *2024 HCC MEETING SCHEDULE - J. Connelly*

J. Connelly shared the meeting schedule for 2024:

January 17, 2024	February 7, 2024	February 21, 2024
March 6, 2024	April 3, 2024	April 17, 2024
May 1, 2024	May 15, 2024	June 19, 2024
July 17, 2024	August 21, 2024	September 4, 2024
September 18, 2024	October 2, 2024	October 16, 2024
November 6, 2024	December 4, 2024	

This schedule is subject to change, updates will be available on the HCC's website at <https://www.hollisnh.org/conservation-commission>

#### *POSITIVELY HOLLIS - L. Barbour*

L. Barbour approached the HCC and thanked them for their service to the town. She shared about a project that she had been working on with some friends, called "Positively Hollis," which shares positive stories about Hollis. She stated that she had collaborated with B. McQuilkin on a recent story about the Silver Lake cyano-bacteria blooms and the proposed Grant warrant article to address this issue. She and her organization saw the opportunity to inform the public on this and other stories that benefit the Hollis populace.

She stated that one of the goals of the organization is to have an in-print quarterly paper that would be mailed to each household in Hollis, along with the website, which was started in September 2023. They are actively looking for stories, among which, the HCC might want to share about the usage of the conservation land and other similar activities.

L. Barbour asked that the HCC consider what they would like to educate the public about and share on the website or in the paper. L. Barbour explained her editorial style, and B. McQuilkin commented that she had really enjoyed working with L. Barbour and that she had done a beautiful job with the article. Discussion took place on the process that L. Barbour uses to write the story. She commented that they would receive final approval of any articles that would be written in collaboration with the HCC.

M. Post asked who owned Positively Hollis; L. Barbour responded that it was an LLC where all money is made from advertising sales for the paper, which is used to distribute the quarterly print version of the paper, and to fund other side projects, like sponsoring a once-a-month luncheon for the Hollis Seniors organization.

The HCC thanked L. Barbour for bringing this to the HCC's attention, and they will be in touch soon to discuss contributing some content for the paper.

#### *ROCK PROPERTY BOUNDARIES - J. Connelly*

J. Connelly shared that when the vendor went out to set the permanent boundaries the temporary markers had been removed. As a result, the permanent boundaries were not set. The vendor, Median Land Services, would be going out once more to set the permanent boundaries at an undetermined date. Members will speak with the property owners to ensure they are aware of the markers being set.

J. Connelly also notified members that Craig Birch had noticed the HCC that a timber harvest would commence in 2024 on the property. This is in accordance with CE and the management plan.

#### *INVASIVE SPECIES - Japanese Knot Weed - P. Valihura*

P. Valihura shared that he had completed a "windshield" survey of Japanese knot weed throughout town. He conducted and completed the survey between December 7 -16, 2023. He explained his process of surveying and the lengths he went to, to be accurate in his assessment. He showed a map with the locations of the knot weed highlighted. He also presented a binder to the HCC that has more detailed accounts that the larger map.

123 In total, he found 28 sites where knot weed was present, with 11 small sites (4 x 4 ft), 6 medium sites (12x 12 ft), 10 large  
124 sites (larger than 12 x 12 ft), and 1 massive site, which he can go more into if they have any questions. He concluded that  
125 there was no discernible pattern of Japanese knot weed throughout town, but that the trend would be for the knot weed to be  
126 seen more commonly near homes if nothing is done to remediate.

127  
128 T. Davies asked if there were any spots found on conservation land; P. Valihura found that the largest spot he sighted was on  
129 and adjacent to conservation land, on Flints Pond by the State's right of way (ROW) off of Nartoff Rd. He shared more  
130 detailed dimensions of the knot weed.

131  
132 T. Dufresne commented that remediation could be presented as a Moose Plate Grant since NH Fish & Game owns the State  
133 ROW. It could be presented via the HCCD, but he felt that the remediation in this area would need to be professionally  
134 completed.

135  
136 B. McQuilkin shared that she had done some research and talked with K. Bridgeo about the overall mapping of the sites.  
137 They found that the spraying is the best option, because even though it will eventually grow back, that the smothering option  
138 isn't that effective because the weed will grow out and around from the tarp used. Further discussion took place about several  
139 spots of the knot weed growth along with possible future mapping and spraying that would need to take place.

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141 P. Valihura commented that he might be willing to volunteer to help with scheduling or planning out possible treatments if  
142 that was needed.

143  
144 The HCC thanked P. Valihura for all his hard work.

145  
146 K. Bridgeo suggested that the HCC digest the report that P. Valihura presented and revisit to make a decision at the second  
147 meeting in February.

148  
149 *FLINT BROOK TRAIL BRIDGES - S. Pettengill & P. Hines*

150 S. Pettengill shared his experience, working as the owner/operator of Affordable Tree Service, from which is now retired,  
151 and time serving the community on various committees and boards. He noted that he has been very involved with keeping  
152 the trails open by removing dead fall from the trails and repairing any damage caused. He recapped his and P. Hines'  
153 volunteer efforts in shoring up bridges on the conservation land, starting near Broad Street, and going easterly and southerly  
154 towards the Nashua River.

155  
156 Sherry Wyskiel of the Trails Committee recently told them that they would be removing the bridges and not replacing them,  
157 due to the lack of funding. Both he and P. Hines have donated many hours and materials towards maintaining and repairing  
158 the bridges. He wanted to get some clarity on where this was coming from, as the bridges along the Flint Brook Trail are in  
159 good condition.

160  
161 T. Dufresne noted that whenever there has been a trail issue in the past, he called S. Pettengill, who took care of any issue.  
162 P. Armstrong felt that if the Trails Committee felt the bridges were in disrepair, she should be consulted, as well as the  
163 Selectboard. S. Pettengill did not feel any were in disrepair at tis time.

164  
165 There was a brief discussion about the metal bench placed along the trail, P. Hines had placed in previously, and this has  
166 since been returned to his property.

167  
168 P. Edmunds volunteered to talk to Sherry Wyskiel, and thanked both S. Pettengill and P. Hines for their dedication towards  
169 maintaining the trails and bridges.

170  
171 *ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS - J. Connelly*

172 J. Connelly updated the HCC that Craig Birch agreed to prepare the annual monitoring reports done for HB High School,  
173 Glover, Rideout, and Gardner by March 2024.

174  
175 *HARDY FIELD- P. Edmunds*

176 P. Edmunds shared that after talking with the police about the make-shift BMX park, that they had not found the alleged  
177 perpetrators. The HCC will need to address this matter in the spring.

178  
179 *2023 ANNUAL REPORT - M. Post*

180 M. Post commented that the final version went to Town Hall on January 10, 2024 and it reflected everyone's comments. He  
181 noted that he edited a portion due to space constraints.

182 **MINUTES**

183 *J. Connelly motioned to accept the public meeting minutes of November 15, 2023, as amended; seconded by T.*  
184 *Davies. All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.*

185  
186 *J. Connelly motioned to accept the public meeting minutes of December 6, 2023, as written; seconded by T. Davies.*  
187 *All in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.*

188  
189 *J. Connelly motioned to accept the non-public meeting minutes of November 15, 2023 as amended, and to keep the*  
190 *non-public minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to release, as written; seconded by T. Davies.*

191  
192 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

193 *J. Connelly motioned to enter into non-public session; seconded by T. Davies. Members were polled, voting in favor*  
194 *of entering into Non-Public Session were J. Connelly, P. Edmunds, T. Davies, M. Post, T. Dufresne, K. Bridgeo, and*  
195 *P. Band, no members opposed or abstaining. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0 and the HCC entered into Non-*  
196 *Public Session at 8:07 pm.*

197  
198 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

199 *M. Post motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to*  
200 *release, seconded by T. Davies. Members were polled, voting in favor of concluding the Non-Public Session were J.*  
201 *Connelly, P. Edmunds, T. Davies, M. Post, T. Dufresne, K. Bridgeo, and P. Band, no members opposed or*  
202 *abstaining. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0 and the HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 8:35 pm.*

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204 **ADJOURNMENT**

205 *J. Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by P. Edmunds. All in favor, none opposed or abstained.*  
206 *Motion carried 7-0-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.*

207  
208 Respectfully Submitted,  
209 Amiee Le Doux  
210 Recording Secretary