

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

June 20, 2018

Approved July 18, 2018

Members Present: Tom Dufresne, Thomas Davies, Cathy Hoffman, LeeAnn Wolff, Jonathan Bruneau;
Alternate Members: Laura Bianco, Joe Connelly, Paul Edmunds, Karen Bridgeo;
Board of Selectmen: Peter Band, BOS Liaison;
Staff: Connie Cain
Guests: Jeff Peters and Sherry Wyskiel, Co-Chairs of the Trails Committee

T. Dufresne called the meeting to order at 7:00.

TRAILS COMMITTEE - BIRCH HILL PROPERTIES

J. Peters and S. Wyskiel discussed the placement of three gates along the Birch Hill properties access due to motorized vehicle use on the properties. The gates would be similar to those used by the US Forest Service to block access, which are more difficult to damage or remove than the agricultural type gates used in other locations, but still allow for pedestrian and snowmobile use. Some discussion occurred in regards to other gates in Town, and the vandalism that has occurred in the past. As the Trails Committee does not have the funds to cover the expense to construct and install the gates, they are asking that the HCC approve this expenditure under protection of Conservation properties.

J. Peters explained the construction of the gates, which are custom-made from steel, and the posts would be set in approximately 18 inches of concrete. The lock mechanism is part of the gate itself, and chains will not be necessary. He handed out some diagrams and detailed the lock and gate construction. T. Davies asked about Town liability if the public is using the properties at night. Gates will be painted reflective orange and reflective tape will be used, so that the gates will be clearly visible in both day and night; S. Wyskiel stated that use after dusk is considered trespassing, and subject to fines per Town ordinance. J. Peters stated that they have received 3 competitive bids for the project, one from Hollis Line Machine for \$11,200; another company proposed \$12,000, and J. Peters has submitted a bid for \$6500 for materials only; he would donate his time for the construction and Amos White has volunteered to install the gates at no cost. J. Peters has been working with the Town Administrator's office to ensure that the bid process is correctly followed.

T. Dufresne motioned to expend up to \$6500 for the 3 gates to be constructed and installed on the Birch Hill properties as discussed; seconded by P. Edmunds. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

J. Peters and S. Wyskiel would also like to place signs on the properties, reminding the public of the Town ordinances governing use of public property, including vehicle use, no fires, and other items including fines. NH Fish & Game cannot enforce ordinances without gates and signage in place. P. Band suggested that a draft sign be created and submitted to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

S. Wyskiel informed HCC members that due to beaver activity on the Town and State Forest trail network, there is quite a bit of flooding to these trails. A significant amount of the Dunklee Trail is presently underwater, and the remedy to this is still under discussion. A brief discussion of trails on the Stefanowicz Farm property commenced; the Trails Committee is waiting for the final determination on the future use of the property before making any recommendations. T. Dufresne also informed them of the upcoming Siergiewicz Farm on Mooar Hill site walk.

J. Peters and S. Wyskiel left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board of Selectmen – Peter Band

No updates, the Recreation Commission is still investigating properties at the Board's request. T. Davies asked if the State had been contacted regarding the potential use of Silver Lake State Park; yes, ongoing.

Planning Board – Cathy Hoffman

The Planning Board (PB) met on Tuesday, June 19th, and began the meeting with a site walk at the Lovering property on Pine Hill Road. PB Members felt that it is a beautiful property, and the owner plans to preserve as many of the

intercrossing stone walls and rural characteristics of the property as possible. Any further discussion on the plan was tabled, to allow the owner and his engineers the opportunity to discuss cistern plans with the Town Engineer.

Along with the Lovering property, the following items were discussed:

- 1.) 82 Runnells Bridge Road, MBLU 005-028, Design Review Application for a proposed 3-lot subdivision, containing 4.85 acres. This property is in the Agricultural & Business zone (AB), which has a one acre density requirement. The plan does not give any proposed use, and was tabled until the next meeting.
- 2.) 451 & 451A Silver Lake Rd, MBLU 046-005, Site Plan Application for a vehicle service station of approximately 3000 sf. The property is next to the Flea Markets near the Amherst Town Line. The applicant wishes to construct a repair station for snowplows and heavy duty machinery. The abutters have hired an Attorney to represent them, as they are concerned with this use. This has been tabled pending a proposed appeal against a recent Hollis Zoning Board decision.
- 3.) Master Plan Update. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) presented the draft projected population and growth chapter. T. Dufresne stated that a resident would like to see any possible Town purchases listed in the Master Plan. After some discussion on the matter, P. Edmunds asked that this resident's request be respectfully denied, as his request could hinder future purchases; all members agreed.

Wild & Scenic Rivers Study Committee – LeeAnn Wolff and Laura Bianco

An article detailing the project had been in the Cabinet. Members are still soliciting letters for the final push to the Federal Government. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 2017.

There was not an updated Treasurer's Report available at meeting time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Siergiewicz Farm Site Walk

T. Dufresne reminded members that the site walk has been scheduled for Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 9:00 am. Ethan Belair of the UNH Coop and Jim Oehler will also be attending. Members should meet at the northern end of the public part of Mooar Hill Road, parking is limited, and dress appropriately for the conditions and terrain. T. Dufresne also reminded members that as the Town owns the property, not the HCC, any activity scheduled to occur on the property will need to be authorized by the Town prior to commencement.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

T. Dufresne motioned to enter into Non-Public session to discuss potential land acquisition under RSA 91-A:3, II (d); seconded by L. Wolff. T. Dufresne polled the members, all those present voted to enter into Non-Public session by a vote of 9-0-0. The HCC entered into Non-Public Session at 7:55 pm.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

T. Dufresne motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to release, seconded by J. Bruneau. T. Dufresne polled the members, all members voted to conclude the Non-Public session and keep the minutes sealed by a vote of 9-0-0. The HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 8:27 pm.

MINUTES

T. Dufresne motioned to accept the public minutes of the June 6, 2018 meeting as written; seconded by L. Wolff. All members in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

T. Dufresne made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by L. Wolff. All members in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cain

Staff