

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Meeting

April 5, 2017

Approved April 19, 2017

Regular Members: Tom Dufresne, David Connor, Thom Davies, Cathy Hoffman, Mark Post;
Alternate Members: Jonathan Bruneau, Laura Bianco, Cheryl Quaine;
Selectmen & Staff Peter Band, BOS Ex-Officio; Connie Cain, Staff.
Guest: Chris Kane, Conservation Biologist

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS

T. Dufresne introduced Chris Kane to the HCC; C. Kane has been creating the annual required monitoring reports on several properties, as they received State or Federal funding towards the purchase. These properties are HBHS Conservation Easement, the Gardner property, the Glover Lot, the Rideout properties. T. Dufresne asked C.Kane to attend this evening's meeting to discuss some of the findings on the various properties.

HBHS Conservation Easement

C. Kane has some minor concerns, but nothing has significantly changed over the past year. He noted that no water testing appears to have been done over the past 10 +/- years; T. Dufresne stated that it is a requirement, but the HCC has not strenuously complained about the lack of the testing and needs to make sure this gets completed annually. C. Kane continued, stating that the new parking lot is not in the easement area, but if the baseball pitching cage and storage area continues to be used, it could be a future issue. J. Bruneau asked if materials were stored there over the winter; unknown. There is a new fence behind the football bleachers on the wetland line; this is felt to be a positive as it defines the boundary and assists in keeping out unnecessary pedestrian traffic.

In regards to flora and fauna found on the easement, C. Kane found "Sweet Woodruff" in the middle of the woods near the Beaver Brook boundary. This is the first record of it being naturalized in the area. (Staff Note: From Wikipedia: "*Galium odoratum*, the sweet-scented bedstraw, is a flowering perennial plant in the family Rubiaceae, native to much of Europe from Spain and Ireland to Russia, as well as Western Siberia, Turkey, Iran and the Caucasus. It is also sparingly naturalized in scattered locations in the United States and Canada. It is widely cultivated for its flowers and its sweet-smelling foliage. An herbaceous plant, it grows to 30–50 cm (12–20 in) long, often lying flat on the ground or supported by other plants. Its vernacular names include woodruff, sweet woodruff, and wild baby's breath; master of the woods would be a literal translation of the German Waldmeister. It is sometimes confused with *Galium triflorum* and *Galium verum*. It owes its sweet smell to the odiferous agent coumarin, and is sometimes used as a flavoring agent due to its chemical content."

CC) Invasive species were also found, including bittersweet and multi-flora rose.

C. Kane recommended that the water testing be re-implemented on an annual basis as required. J. Bruneau thought that the HBHS Green Group might be able to take over the water testing as part of their group activities. T. Dufresne will touch base with them on the matter.

Rideout Properties

C. Kane noted that about 10 years ago, he noted that there had been several trail bridges built to cross over Flint Brook; under one of these bridges, beavers have built a dam. He also noted that a recent timber harvest had been done, and discussed the cut with the State Forester. A 7" diameter chestnut was found on the property, it appeared to be disease-free and in good shape. He noted the GPS location for annual review. There are some small areas of invasive species, including bittersweet, multi-flora rose and Japanese buckthorn, near the boundary with Lone Pine Hunters Club. Action should be taken soon to remove the invasive plants before they become unmanageable, he felt hand-pulling would be all that is needed to remedy at this time.

Gardner Property

Some invasive species were found, such as on the other properties, near the boundary with Tom Morin's property, otherwise remarkably free of invasive. C. Kane felt that hand-pulling in the near future should also be able to remove these plants. There are also vernal pools and other wildlife on the property.

Mr. Gardner had previously shown C. Kane a "Butterfly Weed" plant on the property; it is still there, along with several other rare plants; all appear to be thriving. At the top of the field, there is a chestnut oak grove, which is about 100 years old. Additionally, a "Red Pinesap" was also noted, and is the second such plant to be documented in the State. These, along with other rare plants detailed in the report, make the property unusual in the diversity of rare plants on a single

lot. T. Dufresne asked C. Kane to share his report with the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests due to their interest in surrounding properties.

Glover Lot

No real changes to the property, but the previously noted tree stand appears to have been removed. With the recent drought, he had been able to inspect a “kettle-hole bog”, which contains a significant amount of bog plants that he had not been able to view previously. Grass clippings are still being dumped on the property, but it does not appear to be a major dump site nor is it creating issues at this time.

T. Dufresne made a motion to approve payment to C. Kane for the annual monitoring and reports in the amount of \$960.00; seconded by C. Hoffman. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 8-0-0.

(Chris Kane left the meeting at 7:33 pm.)

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board of Selectmen - Peter Band

Due to a change in Town Policy, the Board of Selectmen will be meeting with all new appointees, re-appointees and chairs to all Town Boards and Committees in April. Discussion on member availability for this meeting; April 24th appears to be the best fit, and T. Dufresne will notify Town Hall administration. C. Hoffman asked what the purpose of these meetings is; P. Band stated that the Selectmen would like to meet with and conduct a brief interview with these volunteers prior to the official appointments.

Planning Board – Cathy Hoffman

The next PB meeting is April 18th, and based on pending applications and communications to the PB Office, she felt the agenda would include the following items:

- 1.) A Lot Line Relocation Plan for property off of Federal Hill Road. As the property is partly in Hollis and Milford, both Towns will need to approve; they are starting with Hollis prior to applying in Milford.
- 2.) Lone Pine Hunter’s Club will be presenting the full plan for a 6-lot subdivision.
- 3.) Cobbett Lane subdivision. The owner will be submitting a design proposal to change the 8-lot SFR subdivision to a 52-unit Elder Housing complex. This is potentially allowed due to recently approved Zoning Ordinance Changes.
- 4.) The Energy Commission would like to discuss solar energy systems further, as the proposed changes to the Solar Ordinance failed at Town elections in March.

There were no updates for the Land Protection Study Committee or the Treasurer’s Report at meeting time.

ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

L. Wolff and C. Quaine have received requests from both the Boys and Girls Scouts Troops to participate in the event; due to safety concerns both groups involvement has been limited. Discussion about how the troops could still be involved in a safe manner, such as possibly working on the Elementary Schools or Nichols Field. With these two areas, the troops could be involved but not be in a high traffic zone. C. Quaine will communicate this suggestion to both troops.

L. Wolff had dropped off flyers for distribution prior to going out of Town; T. Davies will distribute. T. Dufresne will also talk to Carl Hills again about ordering seed packets as previously discussed.

PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING

L. Bianco stated that the Town has begun recycling plastic film, which includes plastic grocery bags, packaging, some mailing materials, plastic food storage bags, and other similar material, which is collected and brought to the Hannaford Grocery Store in Nashua for disposal by volunteers. The person currently coordinating the program will be unable to continue the program after June 2017, and has asked for volunteers to step up and fill the spot. L. Bianco felt important to continue, and thought the HCC could step in and fill the gap. Discussion about program; C. Quaine and L. Bianco are willing to volunteer, as well as other residents. T. Davies felt that an email to the Roadside Volunteers list could also be done to solicit additional volunteers.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

T. Dufresne motioned to enter into non-public session to discuss a potential land acquisition under RSA 91-A:3, II (d); seconded by T. Davies. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried 8-0-0. The HCC entered Non-Public session at 8:05 pm.

120 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**
121 T. Dufresne motioned to return to public session and to keep the minutes sealed under RSA 91-A:3, III; seconded by C.
122 Hoffman. All members in favor, none opposed. The motion to return to public session carried 8-0-0, the minutes were sealed,
123 and the HCC returned to public session at 8:15 pm.
124

125 **MINUTES**
126 T. Dufresne motioned to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2017 meeting as written; seconded by M. Post. All
127 members in favor, none opposed. The motion carried 8-0-0, and the minutes were approved as written.
128

129 **ADJOURNMENT**
130 T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by C. Hoffman. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was
131 adjourned at 8:16 pm.
132

133 Respectfully submitted,
134 Connie Cain
135 Staff