

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Meeting

February 15, 2017

Approved March 1, 2017

Regular Members: Tom Dufresne, David Connor, Cathy Hoffman, Thomas Davies, Mark Post,

Alternate Members: Peter Baker, Jonathan Bruneau, Laura Bianco,

Selectmen & Staff Connie Cain, Staff

HCC Potential Members: Cheryl Quaine, Joseph Connolly

T. Dufresne called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

UNDERGROUND TANKS

Based on the discussion at the February 1, 2017 meeting regarding the Planning Board's proposed change to the Zoning Ordinance, specifically to Section XI Overlay Zoning Districts, Prohibited Uses in the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone, Paragraphs 6 & 7, on the 2017 Town Ballot, T. Dufresne reported that research into the matter had been completed. Based on the findings it was felt that all items necessary had been completed satisfactorily. If members wish to protest against the ordinance amendment as shown on the ballot, members may write letters, inform the public, and/or stand outside the voting location to inform the public of their opposition to the proposed amendment. Discussion commenced in regards to the HCC role as a protector of water resources.

T. Davies and M. Post felt that more information should be gathered before making a formal protest. If an additional layer of protection can added to further protect the aquifer and wetlands, the Town should be asked to further amend the ordinance. Important to find out where all tanks are actually buried, age, materials stored, and what levels of protection are in place for all. T. Davies requested that NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) be contacted to enquire if a representative could speak to the HCC about the recent rules changes and why these were implemented so that the HCC had a better understanding of the matter. T. Dufresne stated that he has contacted DES for further information, but has not received any communications to date. J. Bruneau felt information should be gathered and disseminated into a format that is easier for the general public to read.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Planning Board – Cathy Hoffman

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Among the items to be discussed are:

- 1.) Site and Subdivision Plan amendments, which include an increase of 14 to 21 days for submission of plans to be reviewed.
- 2.) Building Rights Ordinance. This ordinance has been removed, and a phasing program is to be instituted. T. Davies asked what impact this might have on development in Town; more or less friendly to developers? C. Hoffman felt there would be no real impact either way; this will have the most impact on larger developments.
- 3.) Morin Landscaping site plan review; she will keep the HCC informed on the progress.
- 4.) C. Hoffman would like to rejuvenate the Land Use Committee. This Committee consisted of Chairs of various Boards/Committees to meet and discuss items which may impact other Town Board/Committees. This Committee had previously met four times a year regularly up until 2011, and she would like to bring this back as a communication tool. T. Dufresne was in agreement. C. Hoffman will be asking the Board of Selectmen to renew.

Treasurer's Report – Thom Davies

As of February 14, 2017, the HCC account balance was \$451,128. When accounting for reserve funds of \$10,000, the available cash balance is \$441,128.

There were no updates to the Land Protection Study Committee or the Board of Selectmen available at meeting time.

NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS

HBMS Greenhouse

T. Dufresne has spoken with Town Attorney William Drescher about donating funds to the project. Based on Atty. Drescher's advice, the HCC may make small donations for such items. Any large donations would need to be taken from the HCC's general budget; and Board of Selectmen approval received and a Public Hearing to Expend funds must be held prior to expenditure.

Discussion of what value donation would be considered small and what requests would be considered appropriate. T. Dufresne noted that they had given \$250.00 for the HBHS for the purchase of recycling bins after the HBHS Green Group had made a formal written request. It is unknown what the HBMS would be requesting as a donation.

T. Davies made the motion to approve a first installment donation of \$300 towards the HBMS Greenhouse Project; there was no second, and the motion failed.

T. Dufresne suggested speaking with LeeAnn Wolff prior to making a decision, as she was the primary contact with the HBMS Health Teacher Erin White. Members agreed. (STAFF NOTE: The HBHS Green Group donation for the purchase of recycling bins in the amount of \$250.00 was approved on November 2, 2016. The HBMS Greenhouse presentation was on December 7, 2016. At that time, Erin White stated that approximately \$13,000 was still needed to complete the project. She was asked to make a formal written request for funds. I do not have record that any formal request was made to date. CC)

HBHS Visit

Earlier this year, T. Dufresne and J. Bruneau met with the HBHS AP Environmental Sciences Class to discuss what the HCC does for the Town. Three students have volunteered to assist the HCC with projects; T. Dufresne gave their email addresses to C. Cain. Various projects were suggested, including ongoing or upcoming joint projects between Beaver Brook Association and the HCC; the upcoming Roadside Clean-Up promotion and recruitment, in addition to others.

D. Connor noted that he had been recently working on a project in Connecticut, and one of the engineers working with him was a former Hollis resident. The young man was Philip Brown, who constructed the kiosk presently at Woodmont West as a Boy Scout Eagle project. He informed D. Connor that his experience working with P. Baker on the project had been a meaningful experience. D. Connor wanted to make sure P. Baker was aware of his impact of enriching another person's life in such a positive way, and how the work the HCC does in the community today really does impact everyone.

Partnership for Wild & Scenic Rivers

The National Parks Service has created this partnership as a subset of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of 1968. The Town was recently approached by the Nashua River Watershed Association about participating in this program to add a layer of protection to the Nashua River, the Nissitissit River, and the Squannacook River, of which both the Nashua and Nissitissit Rivers are located in Hollis.

T. Davies noted that there is some reticence of involving the Town in this program, as the majority of the rivers and tributaries are in Massachusetts. The majority of any awarded funds would go to that state, but there is no cost to Hollis. Additionally, if Hollis chooses not to participate, then Brookline would not be able to, as Hollis is the connector to the rivers in Massachusetts, and he felt that some consideration should be given to our neighboring Town.

T. Dufresne noted that while there is no cost to the Town, the involvement also doesn't do much for the Town either, but could provide a huge benefit to Brookline in their efforts to preserve the Nissitissit River area in the southern part of Brookline. Both T. Dufresne and T. Davies felt that some consideration should be given for Brookline and their preservation efforts, anything Brookline can protect and conserve will benefit Hollis as the Nissitissit flows from Brookline through the southern part of Hollis. Both Beaver Brook Association and the Nissitissit River Land Trust have pledged support to this effort. C. Quaine noted that participation in the program could offer an additional layer of protection should a pipeline or similar construction be proposed again in the future.

The Board of Selectmen have already voted not to participate in the program when presented to them earlier this year, but members feel that they may not have been fully apprised of the impact and benefits. Although they are leery of potential of having an additional jurisdiction overseeing property in Hollis, members of the HCC would like to ask the Board of Selectmen to reconsider their vote based on HCC support of the project.

P. Baker motioned to inform the Board of Selectmen of the HCC support of the project, to bring forward additional information to the said Board to allow for clarification of what is being promoted by the program, and to ask the said Board to reconsider its vote not to participate in the program. T. Davies seconded this motion, and all members voted in the affirmative. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0-0, and T. Dufresne will contact the Selectmen's office regarding the matter.

More information on the Partnership for Wild & Scenic Rivers program can be found at:

<https://www.nps.gov/pwsr/index.htm>

More information on the Nashua River Watershed Association can be found at:

<http://www.nashuariverwatershed.org/our-watershed/our-rivers-and-streams.html>

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Hollis Annual Volunteer Breakfast

T. Davies reminded members that the Volunteer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at the Lawrence Barn. Invitations were sent out, but he will email the invitation out to members as well. The breakfast is provided by the Town to thank its hard working volunteers and provides a casual venue to meet with the Board of Selectmen, Town staff, and with members of other Boards and Committees.

MINUTES

T. Dufresne motioned to approve the public minutes of February 1, 2017 as written, seconded by P. Baker. All members in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

T. Dufresne motioned to approve the non-public minutes of January 18, 2017 as revised for a minor correction, and to keep them sealed until such time the HCC votes to unseal the minutes, seconded by M. Post. All members in favor, none opposed, C. Hoffman abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-1.

ADJOURNMENT

T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by M. Post. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 8-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Cain
Staff