

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

January 2, 2019

Approved January 16, 2019

Members Present: Tom Dufresne, Thomas Davies, LeeAnn Wolff, David Connor, Jonathan Bruneau
Alternate Members: Cheryl Quaine, Karen Bridgeo
BOS Liaison: Peter Band
Staff: Connie Cain

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

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board of Selectmen – Peter Band

P. Band announced that Lori Radke has been hired as the new Town Administrator, and she will be starting at the beginning of February. He also noted that there is still a vacancy in the Planning Office for the Planning Board Assistant and that Chris Winsor will be stepping down as the Tax Collector, effective January 18, 2019. If members know of any interested parties, information on both positions can be found at the Town's website.

Planning Board – Tom Dufresne

In the absence of Cathy Hoffman, T. Dufresne gave members a brief update on Planning Board (PB) items:

- 1.) Hollis Springs 55+ Condominiums, Silver Lake Rd, MBLU 045-041, 046-006, 046-007, 046-008, 046-009, and 046-010. The 4 collective property owners have submitted a conceptual plan to the PB for a 30 unit condominium development. There have been some additional issues ongoing with the Zoning Board in regards to the properties, but of primary importance to the HCC is that the development backs on to Witches Brook along the eastern boundary of the properties. While nothing has been finalized yet, the owners/developer are attempting to broker a deal with Pennichuck Water Works to provide water to the development via the Amherst water lines. A brief discussion of the area in Hollis and other ongoing and proposed developments in the area commenced.
- 2.) A conceptual plan for workforce/affordable housing has been submitted to the PB for the old "Pitch & Putt" site on Runnells Bridge Rd at the intersection with Old Runnells Bridge Rd, MBLU 010-033-001. Not many details are known at this time, as this is the first instance of such a plan being proposed.

In the absence of an updated Financial Report from the Finance Officer, no Treasurers Report was available at meeting time. It is anticipated that approximately \$200,000 has been or will be transferred to account as the HCC's 50% split of the Land Use Change Tax collected for the calendar year 2018.

NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS

Ernest Hardy Lot, MBLU 031-009, Baxter Road – Tom Dufresne

T. Dufresne will be presenting information on this potential property purchase at the Budget Committee's meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019. If any HCC members are available to attend this meeting, they are requested to do so. At this time, funding for the purchase is to be \$450,000 from the HCC, \$250,000 from the Board of Selectmen (BOS), and \$100,000 to be raised from other sources, including private donations. At this time, a Purchase and Sales is pending approval and signature from both parties. The Town purchase of the property will be contingent on a vote to approve the purchase at the March 2019 Town Meeting, proof of clean title, and a passing environmental study/survey, along with possibly other items.

T. Davies noted that he had received a call from a Hollis resident in support of the purchase. Discussion of the funds to be raised via other sources. Private citizens can donate funds towards specific property purchases but they should make clear how they wish their donation to be used, such as a letter accompanying the donation. If this occurs, the donation can only be used towards that which the donor states that s/he wishes them to go towards. J. Bruneau asked how the public can be informed of the purchase and how to make private donations. Additional discussion ensued regarding the matter; it was decided that this would be addressed at the next meeting.

Parking area on Rocky Pond Rd, Worcester Mill Pond area, MBLU 022-031 – Tom Dufresne

As discussed at previous meetings, increased parking at the property to allow visitors to access the Worcester Mill Plan site and the "Old City" trail partially on HCC and Beaver Brook Association (BBA) properties has been recommended. T. Dufresne has spoken with Brandon Radcliffe about clearing an area for additional parking, and

received a cost estimate of \$1500 for clearing 6-8 new parking spaces. There are presently enough spaces for 2-4 vehicles.

T. Davies noted that Peter Smith, Woodlands Manager for BBA, has stated that the existing culvert in the parking area should be replaced and size increased from 4" to 8". T. Dufresne will need to discuss the replacement and stumping of the area with the Town DPW. He had previously discussed stumping with Todd Croteau, DPW Director, who is waiting to schedule the work once the trees are removed.

T. Davies felt that other trailheads around Town should be investigated to determine if additional parking is needed, or if existing parking areas need improvements. Residents should be able to access the properties, and in some cases, this access is restricted due to parking availability. This will be reviewed again at a later date.

T. Dufresne motioned to approve an expenditure of up to \$1500, as stated, to remove the trees for the parking area as necessary. Further discussion commenced, and members felt that a site visit to the area was prudent prior to commencing any tree felling. With this, there was no second to the motion, and the motion failed.

Members will arrange a site visit, and revisit the matter after that occurs. A brief conversation about additional costs involved with the parking area creation, such as gravel costs, etc. was held.

Educational Opportunities – Tom Dufresne

The 2019 NH Coverts Project Workshop will be held May 15-18, 2019 in Greenfield, NH. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2019. For more information and to register, please visit the UNH Coop website at: https://extension.unh.edu/resource/how-become-nh-coverts-volunteer?utm_source=AdaptiveMailer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NHWoods%20and%20Wildlife&org=785&lvl=100&ite=4630&lea=1342270&ctr=0&par=1&trk=a0W0f00000S5yQUEAZ

T. Davies motioned to reimburse the \$50.00 registration fee to any HCC member who attends; seconded by L. Wolff. All members in favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The Motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.

A NHMA Webinar on Conservation Best Funding Practices is now available on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CDUP7Cw7qw&feature=youtu.be> T. Dufresne also has emailed out a pdf of the Powerpoint presentation to members.

MINUTES

T. Dufresne motioned to approve the non-public meeting minutes of December 5, 2018, as written; seconded by J. Bruneau. All those in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

T. Dufresne motioned to approve the public meeting minutes of December 5, 2018, as written; seconded by L. Wolff. All those in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

T. Dufresne made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by D. Connor. All members in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Cain
Staff