

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

February 20, 2019

Approved March 6, 2019

Members Present: Tom Dufresne, Thomas Davies, Cathy Hoffman, Jonathan Bruneau.
Alternate Members: Laura Bianco, Paul Edmunds, Karen Bridgeo.
BOS Ex-Officio: Peter Band
Staff: Connie Cain

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

TOWN MEETING DRAFT PRESENTATIONS

T. Dufresne has been in communication with the Town Moderator, James Belanger, who stated that he wants to keep presentations to a 7-minute maximum. Final drafts will be presented to members at the March 6, 2019 HCC meeting.

Warrant Article #4 – Conservation Commission, to be presented by Thomas Davies

T. Davies has created a PowerPoint presentation with a brief history of Current Use and the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) split between the Town and the HCC, with the present split being approved in 1999. Two slides speak to the LUCT history for the years 2012-2018, showing the number of new residences in Town, and the acreage and number of parcels removed from Current Use due to development. Edits were suggested and made; P. Band reminded members that brevity would be key for all presentations, and if felt necessary, a handout could be created to give additional information. General discussion continued in regards to the presentation.

L. Bianco and K. Bridgeo volunteered to put together a one-page flyer on the LUCT, and they will reach out to other members if additional help is needed.

K. Bridgeo asked how many Trails Committee members were anticipated to be present to support the Warrant Article. P. Edmunds will reach out to Sherry Wyskiel, Trails Committee Co-Chair, and ask for her support and assistance in speaking with those members. T. Davies asked what the HCC would do if an amendment was made on the floor to increase the percentage to 100%. T. Dufresne felt that it should be anticipated; if it happens, great, if not, that's okay too.

Warrant Article #2 – Ernest Hardy Lot Purchase, to be presented by Tom Dufresne

T. Dufresne drafted the presentation based on both his presentation to the Board of Selectmen, and the Budget Committee's language used at the Town Warrant Public Hearing, which includes the breakdown of how the purchase price is to be paid, with the primary funding of \$450,000 from the HCC. The Hollis Trails Committee, Forest Commission, along with other Town Boards/Commissions, and Beaver Brook Association have voiced their support of the purchase. Edits suggested and made.

Warrant Article #16 – Howe Fields Conservation Easement Purchase, to be presented by Tom Dufresne

T. Dufresne updated the previous presentation created by P. Edmunds for the now defunct Land Protection Study Committee when the purchase was first presented at the 2015 Town Meeting as Warrant Article #9. Due to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) missing a deadline by 3 days, the Federal Grant match of 50% was not approved last year, and the grant must be reapplied for. As such, the Town is required to obtain Town approval of the Conservation Easement again to be eligible for the matching grant. Both P. Band and P. Edmunds stressed the need to inform the public that the Town was not at fault, it was a clerical error on the part of the NRCS. It is felt that the public access to the property is the biggest issue, but with the perimeter trail and the land being open to the public during the non-growing season, this should alleviate public access concerns.

T. Dufresne asked members to think about what they might wish to say to voice their support of the article after each presentation is made at Town Meeting.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

PLANNING BOARD – Cathy Hoffman

At the February 19, 2019 Planning Board (PB) meeting, the Hollis-Brookline High School's (HBHS) presented their plan for the new turf field, to the south of the existing rear parking lot and school building. A number of abutters and other interested parties were in attendance, including T. Dufresne and T. Davies. The abutters expressed strong opposition to the plan. Beaver Brook Association submitted a letter, expressing their concern on the proposed

62 drainage onto their abutting property, and the impacts that will be felt by the surrounding wetlands and buffers. C.
63 Hoffman made the suggestion at the PB meeting that the PB and the HCC work together to present information to the
64 NHDES in regards to the wetlands concerns.

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66 T. Dufresne informed members that the HBHS engineers will be making a similar presentation to the HCC at the March
67 6, 2019 meeting; members should anticipate that abutters and others will be in attendance. Members felt that
68 conducting a site walk prior to that meeting would be helpful, and after discussion, it was tentatively scheduled March
69 4, 2019 at 4:30 pm, pending SAU approval. T. Dufresne will contact the SAU Superintendent, so that he may accompany
70 members, and C. Hoffman will inform the PB so that their members may attend as well.

71
72 The other items reviewed by the PB included

73 1.) Approval of the Lawlor Subdivision on Pepperell Road was granted, as discussed at the last HCC meeting;

74 2.) Master Plan, Chapter 2, Housing and Population draft was worked on.

75
76 *BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Peter Band*

77 P. Band informed the HCC that an additional Warrant Article was added to the Town Meeting, to allow the Town to
78 subdivide and sell the Stefanowicz Farm house at 126 Nartoff Road. There has been much public interest in the house,
79 and this will allow the house to become used again and to allow the Town to recoup some of the purchase money, as
80 originally intended.

81
82 *TREASURER’S REPORT – Thomas Davies*

83 As of January 31, 2019, the HCC had a balance of \$716,197.36, which includes the 2018 LUCT payment. With the
84 \$10,000 stewardship reserve, this leaves \$706,197.36 available as cash.

85
86 If both Warrant Articles #'s 2 and 4 are approved at Town Meeting, \$450,000 will be used for the Ernest Hardy Lot
87 purchase, and \$100,000 for the Howe Fields Conservation Easement purchase, leaving a remainder of \$156,197.36
88 available for other projects.

89
90 **MINUTES**

91 T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2019 meeting as written; seconded by T. Davies.
92 All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

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94 **ADJOURNMENT**

95 T. Dufresne made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by L. Bianco. All members voted in favor, none opposed
96 or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

97
98 Respectfully submitted,

99
100 Connie Cain

101 Staff