

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

August 17, 2016

Approved September 7, 2016

Present:

Regular Members: Thomas Davies-Acting Chairman & Treasurer, LeeAnn Wolff-Secretary, Cathy Hoffman.

Alternate Members: Peter Baker, Mary Jeffrey.

Probationary Members: Jon Bruneau.

Board of Selectmen, Ex-Officio Peter Band.

Staff: Connie Cain.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by acting Chairman T. Davies. M. Jeffery was appointed to vote in the absence of David Connor.

NEW & CONTINUING BUSINESS

Moose Plate Grant Program Update – LeeAnn Wolff

For the 2017 Grant Year, the Moose Plate Grant Program has \$230,000 available, with awards to be given ranging from \$5000 to a maximum of \$24,000. L. Wolff has been in communication with Dee Brickner-Wood with the grant program; based on the information relayed by L. Wolff, it was felt the Siergiewicz Farm property was a strong candidate for the grant program. It was suggested that the property may tie in with other water resources in the area, and L. Wolff is in the process of contacting Pennichuck Water and NRPC in this regard. She is also requesting an updated quote from Bay State Environmental Services for the invasive species control.

T. Davies asked what method would be used to control the invasive species; L. Wolff stated that the management plan created by Jim Oehler in 2013 detailed the methods, with spot herbicide applications for years 1 & 2, and afterwards annual monitoring and hand-pulling as necessary afterwards. The grant proposal will be written to cover these first two years. Other recommendations include the planting of native fruit trees, such as wild crabapple, in Stands 5 & 7 and uneven-aged timber management in Stands 1-2-3-6-8.

P. Baker asked if the Board of Selectmen had yet approved pursuing the grant for this property, as the Board is the managing Town agency. P. Band stated that the Selectmen have not yet approved, this will need to be addressed before grant application is submitted. P. Band stated that the Selectmen will want further information on the type of herbicide to be used, how it will be used, the length of time anticipated for the use and other information on the application prior to giving the HCC permission to pursue the grant.

Old Home Days Planning – Thomas Davies & LeeAnn Wolff

T. Davies received a list of possible questions for the “scavenger” hunt; participating Town vendors should be able to make these answers readily available to participants. Joanie Cudworth of the Transfer Station suggested that any Town vendor be allowed to participate, and base questions on conservation ideas. Judy Mahoney with the Old Home Days Committee will provide a list of vendors, and the Committee has approved the activity. T. Davies suggested that HCC members come up with additional questions and answers for the activity.

L. Wolff stated that Laura Bianco has volunteered to assist with the planning process, and L. Wolff asked her to coordinate the prizes for participants. L. Wolff asked if members could provide a budget for this item. After some discussion, L. Wolff motioned to authorize expending funds of up to \$200.00 towards prizes for the Old Home Day scavenger hunt; seconded by T. Davies. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0-0.

T. Davies stated that he will have the booth sign-up sheet at the September 7th meeting.

Conservation Commission Mission Statement Update – LeeAnn Wolff

L. Wolff submitted the final draft for review; one change to Membership to read “Alternate Members as needed.”

T. Davies motioned to accept the Mission Statement, as amended, seconded by C. Hoffman. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0-0.

59 *Old City Trail – Thomas Davies*
60 T. Davies informed members that Ben Thyng was in the process of constructing a kiosk at the Rocky Pond Road
61 entrance to the Old City Trail; this is part of his Eagle Scout badge. He had asked the type of shingles preferred for
62 the kiosk, asphalt or cedar, and T. Davies would like to poll the HCC members on this questions. Members
63 unanimously prefer cedar shingles, and T. Davies will pass this on.

64
65 P. Baker asked for an update on the parking area revisions; to date no changes have occurred.

66 67 **BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES**

68 69 *BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Peter Band*

70 P. Band updated the HCC on the condition of Selectmen Vahrij Manoukian, who had surgery last week. He is now
71 home, but will be continuing rehabilitation and treatment for some time. The HCC wishes Dr. Manoukian the best
72 during his recovery, and hopes that his rehabilitation and treatment go smoothly and quickly.

73
74 In regards to the ongoing land purchases, P. Band stated that these items are progressing as expected, and are
75 moving forward towards completion.

76 77 *PLANNING BOARD – Cathy Hoffman*

78 The Planning Board met on Tuesday, August 16th, and the following items were on the agenda:

- 79 • Montessori School Site Plan review – this was tabled until the September meeting, as the school is scheduled to
80 appear before the ZBA at their August 25th meeting for a special exception. C. Hoffman will be attending on
81 behalf of the Planning Board.
- 82 • Design review for proposed Self-Storage buildings on Proctor Hill Road near the Brookline boundary. The
83 property in question is in the Industrial zone, and was formerly used as a landscaping business. One of the items
84 proposed calls for using permeable pavement, which has not yet been used in Hollis. The full application is
85 expected to be on the September meeting agenda.

86 87 *TREASURER'S REPORT – Thomas Davies*

88 As of July 31, 2016, the HCC account balance was \$365,293.71. Accounting for the \$10,000 in steward reserve, this
89 leaves an available balance of \$355,293.71.

90 91 *LAND PROTECTION STUDY COMMITTEE – Peter Baker*

92 P. Baker asked the HCC to proceed with the vote to expend funds for the Howe Fields easement, and hold the public
93 hearing on the expenditure as soon as possible. C. Cain noted that both the vote and public hearing were anticipated
94 to be held in September.

95 96 **MINUTES**

97 L. Wolff motioned to approve the minutes of July 20, 2016 as written, seconded by M. Jeffery. All members in favor,
98 none opposed, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0-0.

99 100 **ADJOURNMENT**

101 M. Jeffery motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by L. Wolff. All members in favor, none opposed, and the
102 motion carried by a vote of 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

103
104 Respectfully submitted,
105 Connie Cain
106 Staff