

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

June 1, 2016

Approved July 20, 2016

Present: Tom Dufresne, David Connor, Thomas Davies, LeeAnn Wolff, Cathy Hoffman, Mark Post, Peter Baker, Connie Cain-Staff

Also Present: Laura Bianco, Jonathan Bruneau, Thomas Carr-Meridian Land Services, Lorin Rydstrom-Property Owner

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Nancy Rogers, winner of the Roadside Clean-up Raffle, was presented with her prize. Members thanked her for her participation and gave her a round of applause.

EXPEDITED WETLANDS PERMIT REVIEW & APPROVAL

Thomas Carr, Meridian Land Services for Stromson Realty LLC, MBLU 009-087, Dow Road

T. Carr presented the copies of the proposed permit, along with maps, and explained that the property owner wished to create an agricultural pond on property as a water source for crops and the tree farm on the property. The area in question is an existing wet area; the proposed total wetland impact area is approximately 2660 square feet, with the finished pond size to be 5000-6000 square feet. (See plan attached to minutes for further detail.) T. Carr described the proposed scope of work and layout. Erosion control has been proposed for the southern and eastern pond boundaries; it was felt unnecessary on the northern and western boundaries due to topographical features. Bird boxes are located on the property for habitat, and an additional 4 are to be erected in the new pond area. Several dead trees in the vicinity will be allowed to remain to provide wildlife cover and habitat.

The proposed pond will be unlined, due to location in the water discharge area. Prior to construction, a test hole will be dug and monitored to ensure that the proposed pond will be able to recharge from the water table as anticipated, probably in August. The area discharges at a higher rate in the spring and early summer, and continues at a lower rate over the mid to late summer. J. Bruneau asked if a "check dam" for any unforeseen or extraordinary events is part of the proposal; T. Carr stated that it was not felt necessary. T. Dufresne asked what the depth of the completed pond will be; T. Carr answered that it should be about 10-12 feet. P. Baker asked if the depth would change over time; T. Carr answered that it might, and would be dependent on a variety of conditions, but the test hole results would provide additional information. The proposal also calls for a temporary pump for use during the drier months, mostly in the summer. It is anticipated that it will be used for a maximum of about 60 days a year; based on additional discussion and review of anticipated pump equipment, the pump would be used to supply a 500 gallon water tank, and the temporary pump would operate for less than an hour daily as needed to restock the water tank.

T. Dufresne noted that from the pictures in the application, it appears that old stone dam is on the property. T. Carr stated yes, however, no one was able to provide specific information on the age or when it was breached. Based on verbal history of the area, the proposed pond location and the area south to the old stone dam location had been used for ice harvesting in the past. C. Hoffman asked if the wet area would be considered a vernal pool prior to construction. T. Carr responded no, but the hope is that it would be in the future.

Based on member consensus, it was felt that the pond construction should be monitored by the Town. L. Rydstrom and T. Carr will contact Wendy Trimble, Planning Board Secretary; prior to construction start to arrange for Reggie Ouellette, the Town's Site Inspector, to monitor construction.

Based on recommendations from members, a site walk was scheduled for the location on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 6:00 pm. After the site walk, if members present are in agreement, the plan will be signed by T. Dufresne as Chair of the HCC. (Staff Note: T. Dufresne, C. Hoffman, J. Bruneau and L. Bianco were present for the site walk. After the walk, Chairman Dufresne approved and signed the plan on behalf of the HCC. CC)

(L. Rydstrom and T. Carr left the meeting at 7:40 pm.)

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

None available at meeting time.

C. Hoffman reminded members that the Planning Board would be conducting a site walk on the proposed Ground Mounted Solar System installation for the Grossman property on 140 Ridge Rd on June 21, 2016 at 5:30 pm. Interested HCC members are welcome to attend.

ONGOING/NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Howe Conservation Easement, Ranger Road

T. Dufresne noted that invoices totaling approximately \$3000 have been received for the easement appraisal and survey. P. Baker reminded members that the Town had previously agreed to pay for work done for the easement, and Ms. Howe for the subdivision.

Spaulding Lots or Jeff Smith Conservation Area Timber Harvest, Rocky Pond Road

Additional payments for timber harvested on these lots have been received from Craig Birch, and the total timber harvest has generated over \$32,000 in unanticipated revenue for the Town. At this time, all monies received from timber harvests on HCC land are deposited into the Town's General Fund, and are used to offset property taxes.

Stefanowicz Farm Phase I Environmental Study Bids

T. Dufresne, L. Wolff, J. Bruneau and L. Bianco have reviewed the 5 bids submitted for the Phase I Environmental Study to be conducted on the Stefanowicz Farm property, as part of the Town requirements to purchase. Discussion of the bids occurred; all companies submitting bids have worked in Hollis in the past.

Based on the member review of the bids and discussion thereof, T. Davies motioned to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Stone Hill Environmental Inc. of Portsmouth NH be awarded the contract for the Phase I Environmental Study for the Stefanowicz Farm property; seconded by T. Dufresne. All members in favor, none opposed; and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0. (Alternate and probationary members votes not recorded.)

Summer Meeting Schedule

For the months of June, July and August, the following meetings will be held, unless need arises to hold the second monthly meeting:

June 1, 2016;

July 20, 2016; and

August 17, 2016.

Beginning in September, the regular meeting schedule will resume.

2016 Old Home Days Booth & Exhibitions

T. Davies has received the sign-up letter for the HCC Old Home Days booth, and has paid the \$15.00 for the booth. Old Home Days will be held on Friday, September 16th and Saturday, September 17th, with booths being open on Saturday only. Members should consider ideas/ themes for this year's exhibits and be prepared to discuss over the summer.

National Trails Day, June 4, 2016

Saturday, June 4th is National Trails Day, and T. Davies informed members that Beaver Brook Association will be working on the portion of the "Old City Trail" that lies on HCC land off of Rocky Pond Road, and previously approved by the HCC on February 17, 2016. The tree removal for the parking area will be done at a different time. T. Davies invited all members to participate if they are available on the date.

MINUTES

T. Dufresne motioned to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2016 meeting as written; seconded by L. Wolff. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0.

T. Dufresne motioned to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting as written; seconded by L. Wolff. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0.

T. Dufresne motioned to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2016 meeting as written; seconded by T. Davies. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0.

112 T. Dufresne motioned to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2016 non-public meeting as written and to keep them
113 sealed until voted to unseal; seconded by M. Post. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a
114 vote of 6-0-0.

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116 **ADJOURNMENT**

117 T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by M. Post. All members in favor, none opposed, and the
118 motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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120 Respectfully submitted,

121 Connie Cain

122 Staff