

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

May 4, 2016

Approved June 1, 2016

Present: Tom Dufresne, David Connor, Cathy Hoffman, Peter Band, Thom Davies, Peter Baker

Guests: Eliza LeCours and Laura Bianco

T. Dufresne called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. He welcomed Eliza LeCours and Laura Bianco to the meeting. He noted that Laura is interested in becoming a member of the HCC.

E. LeCours reported on the preparations for the annual roadside cleanup scheduled for Saturday, May 14th at the Hollis transfer station. She stated that there is a sign at the transfer station regarding the cleanup. She added that she would be contacting the police department asking them to display the announcement of the cleanup on their roadside electronic sign making residents and motorists aware of the event. Using social media she will also be announcing the raffle for the tablet. She stated that on Monday (May 9th) she would pursue more aggressive advertising.

T. Davies commented that it was a good idea changing the location of the cleanup to the transfer station. He stated that the bags for collection are at the transfer station and ready for handout. He believes that the answer to the littering problem is education in the schools. Following his comment there was a discussion regarding ways to potentially curtail littering in the Town.

E. LeCours stated that changing the date on the existing signs was too time consuming. She suggested either purchasing new signs or changing the month of the cleanup back to April.

BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Selectmen: P. Band explained to the HCC and guests why the proposed purchase of the Rocky Pond property failed, noting that there were legal issues that prevented the purchase from being completed. He stated that there is the potential for future reconsideration of this land purchase.

P. Band announced that the LUCT (Land Use Change Tax) numbers were up this year. He added that 50% of the LUCT goes into the Conservation Commission's fund.

Planning Board: C. Hoffman stated that the Planning Board's next meeting is scheduled for May 21st. Regarding the failure to procure the Rocky Pond property, she suggested that it might be valuable in the future to have a member of the Land Protection Study Committee (LPSC) on the Planning Board, or at least, to have the LPSC consult with the Town Planner regarding restrictions and/or covenants on potential property purchases.

Treasurer's Report – There was no treasurer's report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Pennichuck Water Works Videos: T. Davies reported that this past week he attended the Nashua Conservation Commission (NCC) meeting to review the Pennichuck Water Works stormwater videos. He commented that the NCC meeting was much more formal than the HCC meetings. The purpose of this meeting was for the neighboring towns to view these videos and to agree to post them on their websites when the final versions are completed. He stated that the four videos are each approximately five minutes long and are primarily about reducing stormwater runoff and contamination of surface waters. He added that the videos did have a lot of photos. His suggestion at the NCC meeting was to have a checklist of what can be done to reduce runoff.

T. Dufresne stated that after review of the completed videos, the HCC would make a recommendation to the Town Administrator regarding posting the videos on the Town website.

A discussion followed regarding how to better communicate important information to residents. Comments included; not many residents actually read newspapers anymore, and there is the potential to use electronic mailing to get information to Hollis residents. T. Davies commented that some towns use banners to announce events. P. Band stated that the main roads in Hollis are state roads and would require state permission to place a banner. C. Hoffman noted that banner signs are not permitted in Hollis. An ordinance change or Zoning Board approval would be required to permit a banner.

Timber Cut: T. Dufresne informed HCC members that Craig Birch has submitted a check of approximately \$11,000 for the timber cut on the Spaulding Lot off of Rocky Pond Road. He added that Jim Oehler, New Hampshire Fish and Game, has indicated that the gravel pit on this site could be a potential nesting site for the endangered Blandings Turtle.

Land Protection Study Committee: P. Baker reported on the progress of Howe property purchase. He stated that the NRCs (Natural Resource Conservation Service) has yet to review and approve the appraisal. The auditors are questioning the source of funding for this land purchase. The HCC is committed to support this land purchase in the amount of \$120,000 (maximum expenditure). The total price is \$600,000. He added that the process is going very slowly and noted that the draft easement document has not been received from Attorney Drescher at this time. P. Band suggested having the Town Administrator contact Attorney Drescher regarding progress on the easement document for this property. P. Baker added that the most recent appraisal came in higher than the last. He noted that this means the Town would be receiving more federal funding for this land purchase (~\$303,000).

Roadside Cleanup: P. Band and T. Dufresne stated that they would not be available to participate in the roadside cleanup. T. Davies commented that the church group would be doing a roadside cleanup on Sunday the 15th. HCC members expressed concern regarding keeping children safe during the cleanup. It was suggested that the electronic sign be placed on South Merrimack Road asking motorists to be aware of pedestrians participating in the cleanup. Members also felt that it would be appropriate to send thank you notes acknowledging those residents that continue to pick up litter along the roads.

Stefanowicz Property: T. Dufresne informed HCC members that he would be talking to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Stefanowicz property. There are several options regarding the house and lot and there is also the potential to use a portion of the land for recreation fields. The house and lot could be sold, as is or taken down. Another option would be to relocate the lot line to make the current non-conforming lot a full conforming two-acre lot. L. Bianca stated that she was not necessarily in favor of using this land for recreation fields. Her main concern is maintaining the rural character of Hollis. She was also concerned that not enough information regarding these land purchases was getting out to the public. T. Dufresne stated that the Selectmen would be making the final decision regarding the use of the property and disposition of the house.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

T. Dufresne moved to approve the public minutes of April 6, as submitted. P. Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

T. Dufresne moved to approve the public minutes of April 20th. C. Hoffman seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

T. Dufresne moved to approve and keep sealed the non- public minutes of April 20th. D. Connor seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

Those present thanked Lee Ann and Mark Wolff for hosting the HCC get together at their house on April 24th.

ADJOURNMENT

T. Dufresne moved and T. Davies seconded to adjourn. The motion carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hoffman