

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

April 6, 2016

Approved May 4, 2016

Present: Tom Dufresne, David Connor, Thomas Davies, Cathy Hoffman, Peter Baker, LeeAnn Wolff, Mark Post, Peter Band-BOS Liaison

Also Present: Eliza LeCours, Resident

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

ANNUAL ROADSIDE CLEANUP

The Annual Roadside Clean-up has been scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2016. E. LeCours expressed interest in assisting the HCC with the event, and T. Dufresne invited her to this evening's meeting to discuss how she may be able to assist.

E. LeCours stated that roadside litter is becoming a horrific problem in NH, a recent change to State law reduced the littering fine from \$297 for the first offense to \$62; along with the State fine, the Town enforces a fine of \$50. E. LeCours is currently working with Senator Lou D'Allessandro on a proposal to be submitted to the NH State Legislation to increase the State fine to \$500; this would put NH on par with surrounding States. She also noted that an estimated 50 trillion cigarette butts are dropped annually in the US; the State of Illinois recently passed a law imposing a \$1500 fine for any person(s) caught improperly disposing of cigarette butts. She felt that with the recent change to NH State Law, while other states are pursuing stricter penalties to hopefully curtail and prevent littering, NH has taken a step backwards with this action. She would also like to see the "Adopt A Road" program revitalized throughout the community, and felt this could lead to a greater awareness of the impact littering can have on the community as a whole.

E. LeCours explained that she would like to assist the HCC in promoting various anti-littering and prevention campaigns, including the annual Roadside Clean-up. To this end, she approached Joan Cudworth, Transfer Station Foreperson, about using the Transfer Station as the gathering place for participants; J. Cudworth was in favor of "hosting" the event. E. LeCours also suggested that at least one week prior to the event, that flyers and signage be available at the Transfer Station and other locations around Town. If a resident could not attend the event on the day given, J. Cudworth could provide bags for residents to use at their convenience. T. Davies noted that many "unofficial" participants to the Roadside Cleanup event clean up the Town's roads throughout the year, informing the HCC of roads that they regularly police for litter and maintain.

T. Davies asked if using the Transfer Station as the gathering location would cause additional traffic/congestion concerns; the Roadside Clean-up is held on Saturdays, which is also the busiest day at the Transfer Station. E. LeCours stated that she had addressed that during her conversation with J. Cudworth, and it was felt that it would not cause any issues; residents using the Transfer Station come in waves. E. LeCours suggested holding the event from the Transfer Station as a trial and testing it out.

E. LeCours stated that she is also a member of various Facebook groups, including the "Hollis-Brookline Clean-Up" page, which was created so that residents could address litter issues in both communities proactively. The Roadside Clean-up event could be posted on that page, along with posting on the Hollis-Brookline Community and the Hollis Mom's Facebook pages for additional exposure. T. Davies was impressed by the use and impact of social media to inform the public about the 3 warrant articles on the property purchases during the 2016 Town Meeting, and felt that HCC members using the same type of social media would be helpful in promoting the littering issues and event. To this end, E. LeCours asked if a map could be made available to highlight roads in greater need of work. This could be posted to the Facebook pages mentioned. D. Connor felt that one of the most challenging items is assigning people to certain roads. Did E. LeCours have any suggestion on how to utilize Facebook to create an interactive sign-up sheet so that people could sign up for specific roads? Yes, she had done some cursory investigation, and it can be done; T. Davies noted that Beaver Brook had used Survey Monkey on their Facebook page for a similar event. If it can be done, E. LeCours will post to the various Facebook group pages to inform those members.

E. LeCours asked if the Town, HCC, or private individuals assisting with the event could be held liable in the event of an accident; T. Davies stated no, that participants are advised of the dangers of both being on public roads and of picking up litter along roadsides, and are given safety recommendations prior to participating. The Police Department is informed of the event in advance, and persons participating with children are not assigned high

61 traffic roads, such as Broad Street or South Merrimack Road. E. LeCours noted that the Police Department's
62 electronic notice sign is presently out at various locations in Town, reminding the public not to litter.
63

64 T. Davies noted that the HCC needs more public participation in this annual event and year-round. Brookline is
65 holding their Roadside Clean-up during the school vacation week of April 23 – May 1, and Milford is holding theirs
66 on May 7; Hollis follows on the next weekend. P. Baker asked what Brookline does during the week given; T. Davies
67 felt that because it is school vacation week, having a week-long event allows more flexibility for residents to choose
68 a day to participate during that week, and may allow for greater participation; he was not aware of any specific
69 events coordinated during the week. Although Hollis' is only a 1-day event, he felt that the community overall could
70 do much better, along with educating the public on the effects of littering. His opinion is that a better job of
71 education and prevention will go much further than an annual day event.
72

73 T. Davies stated that he had spoken to Tanya Tenkerian, Cub Scout Den Mother, about their participation, and they
74 will be working on the intersection of Alsun Drive and South Merrimack Road on April 22nd, as they will not be able
75 to participate on the actual day. If residents/members of the public wish to participate in the event, but cannot do so
76 on the actual day, they can contact him at ----- and he will provide bags and note location(s) worked on.
77

78 E. LeCours asked if the HCC would be willing to hold the event at the Transfer Station, and coordinate the event with
79 J. Cudworth; yes. Some discussion ensued about the possibility of offering a "prize" to the person that collected the
80 most trash and detail on how that would be determined, as an incentive to participate in the event. Members agreed
81 that for every bag of trash collected, a participant would receive an entry into a raffle to win the prize; L. Wolff
82 volunteered to donate an Amazon Fire tablet as the prize.
83

84 E. Le Cours volunteered to create a flyer and email the draft to T. Dufresne for distribution to other HCC members
85 for review. T. Dufresne stated that Connie Cain, Staff, had requested of the HCC information to post on Channel 12
86 rotation to advertise the event, and also if a theme had been chosen. Members felt that a theme was not necessary, T.
87 Dufresne will pass on.
88

89 The HCC thanked E. LeCours for her attendance at the meeting, and looks forward to working with her on the
90 Roadside Clean-up event.
91

92 (E. LeCours left the meeting at 7:25 pm)
93

94 **BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES**

95 *BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Peter Band*

96 The Selectmen are moving forward with the potential purchase of the 3 properties approved at 2016 Town Meeting.
97 P. Band's sense is that a fee simple purchase with a possible Conservation Easement in the future is the way that the
98 Selectmen would prefer to proceed, as that type of purchase makes it easier for the Town from a legal standpoint.
99 While he feels that the Conservation Easement should be put into place at the time of purchase to protect and make
100 the property eligible for potential grant funds to assist with the purchase, he is in the minority. He will continue to
101 update the HCC as the negotiations proceed.
102
103

104 *PLANNING BOARD – Cathy Hoffman*

105 The Planning Board (PB) will be meeting on April 19th. At this meeting, they will be discussing a recently submitted
106 site plan for the Montessori School on South Merrimack Rd. The school would like to expand the student population
107 from the present 117 to 200, and utilize the renovated bunkhouse for additional classroom space. The site plan calls
108 for extending the existing driveway to the bunkhouse and additional parking for six cars. As the Dunklee Pond
109 property directly abuts the School property, C. Hoffman felt it germane to inform the HCC of the proposal. P. Baker
110 asked if the septic system at the bunkhouse had been upgraded when renovations had been done a few years ago;
111 the septic system in place when it was used for migrant workers housing had been a "part-time" use. C. Hoffman was
112 not aware if that had been upgraded, but the present system for the school is capable of servicing up to 200
113 students, per the site plan. Traffic was also of concern, as the intersection of South Merrimack and Silver Lake Roads
114 is one of the busier intersections in Town. Where the school does not utilize a bus service for student pick-up, an
115 additional 80+ students will add to the traffic congestion in the area, especially at high impact times, such as
116 morning rush hour. C. Hoffman will bring these concerns forward at the next PB meeting.
117

118 *TREASURER'S REPORT – Thomas Davies*

119 T. Davies reported that as of March 31, 2016, the HCC account balance was \$370,388.35; with accounting for the
120 \$10,000 stewardship reserve, this leaves \$360,388.35 available as cash. P. Baker reminded members that the HCC
121 has committed funding towards the Howe Conservation Easement. (Staff Note: On April 1, 2015, the HCC voted to

122 expend up to \$20,000 towards legal costs associated with the Conservation Easement. No other vote has been taken
123 then. To date, \$2737 has been expended. CC)

124
125 P. Band asked when the Howe Conservation Easement would be closing; P. Baker stated that the final appraisal is
126 anticipated by the end of the week, and that Atty. Drescher is completing the final easement document. Once those
127 items are received, Sharon Howe and the LPSC will need to review and approve before finalizing the purchase. P.
128 Band will ask the Selectmen to request the final easement document from Atty. Drescher.

129
130 There was no Land Protection Study Committee update at meeting time.

131 132 **STEFANOWICZ FARM UPDATE**

133 T. Dufresne informed members that the Purchase & Sales Agreement (P&S) for the property is being created by Mr.
134 Stefanowicz's attorney, with Town Atty. William Drescher to review prior to signature. Discussion of items to be
135 included in the document ensued. Kim Galipeau, Town Administrator, is in the process of obtaining the Phase I
136 Environmental Studies RFP's, as competitive bids are required when the anticipated cost exceeds \$5000. P. Baker
137 suggested that RFP's for surveys, if the Town will be requiring, on all three properties be sent out at the same time to
138 avoid any delays. David Orde of Lull Farm will continue to farm the property for the 2016 season; Mr. Stefanowicz is
139 still the owner of the property, and at the earliest anticipated time that ownership could transfer to the Town, the
140 growing season will be at least half over.

141
142 The Recreation Commission has contacted T. Dufresne in regards to the potential playing fields and locations;
143 location(s) to be decided and some concern expressed about disrupting the wildlife corridor on the property by field
144 placement. T. Dufresne will bring up with both the Recreation and Agricultural Commissions.

145
146 For the forest portion of the property, T. Dufresne would like to see a deed restriction or conservation easement in
147 place to limit the conversion of forest land to farm or recreation land. P. Baker suggested that the Agricultural
148 Commission could manage the forested portion, as it is considered an agricultural use. T. Dufresne stated that before
149 any changes to the property could occur, a Baseline study needed to be conducted to assess the present factors. As
150 the Town has not previously conducted these studies, who would conduct these studies is unknown, but the UNH
151 Cooperative Extension has a list of possible candidates. M. Post stated that new Federal Food Safety Laws go into
152 effect starting in 2017, there are significant changes that farmers will have to abide by, and the Agricultural
153 Commission is in the process of reviewing these requirements, and assessing any impact to local farmers. Town Hall
154 has received some enquiries from local farmers regarding leasing the agricultural fields, but the Town cannot
155 purchase the property until the Phase I Environmental and other studies have been performed.

156
157 T. Dufresne stated that the HCC needs to provide, to the Board of Selectmen, a recommendation on the proposed
158 future use of the buildings. At this time, he sees the options as: 1.) Resell; 2.) Rental; 3.) Town use; or 4.) Demolition.
159 P. Band felt that the Selectmen would not want to rent the property out due to complexity and liability. Members felt
160 the existing pole barn could be utilized by whoever farms the property. T. Dufresne stated that he does not need a
161 decision now, but would like members to be prepared to vote at the next meeting.

162 163 **OTHER BUSINESS**

164 165 *Federal Hill Estates Timber Harvest*

166 Andrew Gardent, logger for Raisanen Homes Elite LLC, is conducting a timber harvest on the Federal Hill Estates
167 subdivision on Federal Hill and Rocky Pond Roads. He enquired if the HCC would allow him to use the existing trail
168 on the HCC land abutting the development (MBLU 029-033) instead of creating a new timber road and landing area
169 for the timber harvest. T. Dufresne met with Mr. Gardent at the site, and walked the trail with him. The last time the
170 trail had been used for timber harvest access on an abutting parcel (2008), the then owner did not leave the trail in
171 the same shape it had been; Mr. Gardent stated that he would leave the trail in as good, if not better than, at present.
172 Mr. Gardent has conducted other timber cuts in Town, including one next to T. Dufresne's property, and appears to
173 be reliable. T. Dufresne felt it was a reasonable request, and prevented additional impact to the area. He asked
174 members if there were any issues he was not aware of; with none forthcoming, he asked members to vote to allow
175 the temporary use of the trail for the timber harvest. Members in favor; and T. Dufresne will inform Mr. Gardent of
176 the approval.

177 178 *HCC Rocky Pond Road Timber Harvest*

179 Craig Birch has been conducting a timber cut on the properties purchased from Charles & Emily Spaulding off Rocky
180 Pond Road, across and north of the Transfer Station. C. Birch has submitted a partial payment for timber cut, and
181 also stated to Connie Cain that the HCC had renamed the area the "Jeff Smith Conservation Area" during the time he

was on the HCC. T. Dufresne asked HCC members if they were aware of the name change; those present were not aware of such action. T. Dufresne will pass on to C. Cain for additional research.

NRPC Household Hazardous Waste Flyer

The 2016 Household Hazardous Waste Collection dates, locations, and accepted material information is now available on the NRPC website at <http://www.nashuarpc.org/energy-environmental-planning/household-hazardous-waste/> Flyers are also available at Town Hall and will be available at the Annual Roadside Clean-up.

Potential Grant Resources

L. Wolff stated that Grant funding may be available for rehabilitation/restoration work on the properties approved at Town Meeting for a variety of projects, including, but not limited to tire/trash/debris removal, demolition of buildings or septic systems, remediation of impacted areas, etc. The Town approval to purchase would satisfy some/all of the grant requirements as to intent of the Town to purchase, and with Grant rounds to begin shortly, she wanted to mention and ask if she should be investigating the available grants for requirements/applications. P. Baker suggested creating a list of potential grants and timetable for deadlines, etc, for the 2016 grant rounds, and report findings back to the HCC. L. Wolff will research and report back accordingly.

Gardner Easement Vernal Pools Addition to Annual Report

Chris Kane, Easement Monitor, at the request of the HCC, submitted a quote for the Gardner Easement on South Merrimack Road (MBLU 042-073) to include reporting and monitoring of any vernal pools found on the property. With this inclusion, the original quote was revised to \$960 to include the additional work.

T. Dufresne motioned to approve the quote for the annual monitoring of the Gardner Easement in the amount of \$960; seconded by T. Davies. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.

Saving Special Places Conference, Alton NH – April 9, 2016

L. Wolff will be attending this conference on behalf of the HCC, and asked if members wished her to enquire about any specific items while there. T. Dufresne requested that if any information was available on Conservation Easements, if she would gather and submit to him. L. Wolff will report back on the conference at the next meeting.

Old City Trail – Rocky Pond Road

T. Davies notified members that Beaver Brook Association will be working on the trail as part of their National Trails Day project on June 4, 2016. At the February 17, 2016 meeting, the HCC had voted to allow BBA to maintain and manage the part of the trail that crosses over HCC property on its way to the Old City Trail near the Worcester Mill Pond. He also spoke to J. Cudworth, who in turn will discuss with Tom Bayrd, DPW Director, the possibility of removing some of the trees near the road to allow for 3 or 4 parking spaces as discussed at the same meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

T. Dufresne noted that there are 3 vacancies for regular members at the present time; with that, he has approached both M. Post and L. Wolff to fill those vacancies and both have agreed to do so. C. Cain will pass the information on the Town Administrator so that the Board of Selectmen can approve these appointments and the proper documentation can be sent out.

With these appointments, the HCC consists of 6 regular and 2 alternate members. An opening remains for a regular member, and the HCC may have as many alternates as it wishes. T. Dufresne asked members to approach any resident who may be interested in joining to attend a HCC meeting and/or to submit a Volunteer Application; this can be found on the Town's website at <http://hollisnh.org/govt/forms.htm>

MINUTES

T. Dufresne motioned to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting as written; seconded by T. Davies. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by T. Davies. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Cain
Staff