

# HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

April 17, 2019

Approved May 1, 2019

Members Present: Tom Dufresne, Thomas Davies, Cathy Hoffman, LeeAnn Wolff, Mark Post, Jonathan Bruneau;  
Alternate Members: Joe Connelly, Laura Bianco, Paul Edmunds, Karen Bridgeo  
BOS Ex-Officio: Peter Band  
Staff: Connie Cain

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

## 2019 OFFICER ELECTIONS

T. Dufresne opened up the floor for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

*T. Davies nominated T. Dufresne to continue as Chair; seconded by J. Connelly. T. Dufresne accepted the nomination, and a vote was held. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained. With this vote, T. Dufresne was elected Chair for the 2019 Year, with a term running from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 or whenever the next election occurs.*

*T. Dufresne nominated L. Wolff to continue as Vice-Chair; seconded by M. Post. L. Wolff accepted the nomination, and a vote was held. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained. With this vote, L. Wolff was elected Vice-Chair for the 2019 Year, with a term running from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 or whenever the next election occurs.*

*T. Dufresne nominated T. Davies to continue as Treasurer; seconded by L. Wolff. T. Davies accepted the nomination, and a vote was held. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained. With this vote, T. Davies was elected Treasurer for the 2019 Year, with a term running from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 or whenever the next election occurs.*

*T. Dufresne nominated J. Bruneau to continue as Secretary; seconded by T. Davies. J. Bruneau accepted the nomination, and a vote was held. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained. With this vote, J. Bruneau was elected Secretary for the 2019 Year, with a term running from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 or whenever the next election occurs.*

This concluded the 2019 Officer Elections.

## BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

*PLANNING BOARD – Cathy Hoffman*

Due to an emergency, C. Hoffman had been unable to attend the April 16, 2019 Planning Board (PB) meeting. L. Bianco had been in attendance and briefed the members on the discussions. C. Hoffman will send the minutes to members when they are available.

There was nothing new to report from Board of Selectmen, and no updates had been received from the Finance Office for the Treasurer's Report.

## NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS

*Wild & Scenic Rivers Committee– LeeAnn Wolff*

L. Wolff reported that with the Federal Government recently passing legislation to make parts of the Nashua, Squanacook, and Nissitissit Rivers part of the Wild & Scenic River program, the Nashua Wild & Scenic River Committee will now become a Council. L. Wolff reported that with the Federal Government recently passing legislation to make parts of the Nashua, Squanacook, and Nissitissit Rivers part of the Wild & Scenic River program, the Nashua Wild & Scenic River Committee will now work towards becoming a Council. With this designation, the Committee/Council will ask the local communities to reaffirm their membership, and that the representatives reaffirm their participation; letter will be sent to the Board of Selectmen asking for this recommitment. L. Wolff will be reaffirming, but L. Bianco stated that with her additional Town involvement in other areas, she will unfortunately need to step down. L. Wolff stated there is still time to decide, so members can decide if they have the time to be involved. Meetings are once a month, but are generally 2+ hours. J. Bruneau asked if a member of the public could participate as the second Hollis

representative. L. Wolff stated that she would have to investigate; current members consist of Conservation Commission members, Town Selectmen or other Town management, Fish & Game, and other like offices.

Approximately 4000 people have been invited to the “Wild & Scenic Celebration” to mark the acceptance of the parts of the Nashua, Squanacook, and Nissitissit River systems as part of the Wild & Scenic River System. This event will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, at the Bill Ashe Visitor Center at Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge, 80 Hospital Rd, Devens, MA 01434, The BOS have been sent a letter requesting the attendance of one of them to accept the certificate on behalf of the Town. L. Wolff noted that, to date, there will be no State representation at the event. She is also asking for volunteers to help set up on the Saturday prior, April 27, 2019, at 11:00 am at the same address. (Staff Note: For more information on the event or to make a reservation, please visit <https://www.nvcoc.com/events/details/wild-scenic-celebration-37916>)

#### *Birch Hill Management Plan – Tom Dufresne*

T. Dufresne announced that Jim Oehler, members of the Trails Committee, and possibly Craig Birch will be attending the HCC meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the plan, trails management, and other pertinent items. As the property was purchased primarily as wildlife habitat, trail use is secondary, but must also be addressed. Snowmobile use in Hollis is heavy in the winter, and equestrians also use the trails in the better weather. Parking will also need to be addressed at this meeting.

#### *Town CC Meeting Visits – Joe Connelly & Thom Davies*

Both gentlemen visited the Brookline and Amherst Conservation Commissions meetings recently. T. Davies noted that because Amherst doesn’t have a Trails Committee such as that in Hollis, a majority of their time was spent discussing ongoing trail issues. T. Davies noted that trails and agricultural use can occur on shared properties, such as at Woodmont. The Trails Committee were cognizant of the trail issues on that property, and found a way to work through them with the leaseholder. He also felt that the HCC needed to take more ownership of the trails on Conservation property. Discussion continued on the subject for a brief period.

J. Connelly stated that the Amherst CC have a lot of the same issues that Hollis does; they receive a \$20,000 annual budget from their Town for administration, with the remainder of their funds used for land purchases, etc. At this time, they are fund-raising for monies to mark perimeters of one of their larger properties. They are making a point of doing these walks, as they can meet the abutters, speak about awareness, and hopefully deal with other issues, such as abutter encroachments.

#### *Rideout-Flint Brook Trails – Tom Dufresne*

A complaint from a resident was recently received in regards to the Rideout-Flint Brook Trails between Broad and Wright Roads. Apparently the beavers have started building dams and flooding the trails. T. Dufresne broke up the beaver dam in question, as Flint Brook is not well-suited for beaver dams and is shallow. If activity continues, the beavers may need to be moved. He also spoke to DPW Director Todd Croteau, who is already involved and addressing dams on the Town properties in the area, and the Trails Committee is also working on the issue. C. Cain reminded members that there is a timber harvest on the HCC and private land in the area also, and members may get calls.

#### *Saving Special Places Conference – Tom Dufresne & Thom Davies*

Both gentlemen attended the conference on Saturday, April 6, 2019, and felt that the facilities this year were impressive, with about 300 attendees, and lots of vendors. Information received on conservation property sales, with some presenters extolling Hollis’ efforts to conserve and preserve land. Many of the presentations are available online, along with conservation commission training and education opportunities at <https://savingspecialplaces.org/>

#### *Household Hazard Waste Days – Tom Dufresne*

T. Dufresne reminded members that this Saturday, April 20, 2019 is the first of the Household Hazard Waste days of the 2019 year. More dates and information can be found at <https://www.nashuarpc.org/energy-environmental-planning/household-hazardous-waste/collection-info-schedule-location/>

#### **ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP PLANNING – Saturday, May 4, 2019**

T. Dufresne will be putting signs up this week. Joan Cudworth, Lead Transfer Station Attendant, has asked the HCC to remind volunteers of the dangers of needles and other drug paraphernalia that may found during the event. If anything is found or looks suspicious, volunteers should not handle but call 9-1-1. J. Cudworth also has bags, and relayed that the State is out of bags for such events.

Looking forward to the 2020 event, there is a grant opportunity to provide funding for gloves, vests and other associated items for participants to use during the clean-up. J. Cudworth has the contact information.

120 **MINUTES**

121 *T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the public minutes of the April 4, 2019 meeting as written; seconded by*  
122 *T. Davies. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of*  
123 *10-0-0.*

124  
125 **ADJOURNMENT**

126 *P. Edmunds made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J. Bruneau. All members voted in favor, none*  
127 *opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 10-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.*

128  
129 Respectfully submitted,  
130 Connie Cain  
131 Staff