

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Meeting

November 20, 2019

Approved December 4, 2019

Regular Members: LeeAnn Wolff, Thomas Davies, Jonathan Bruneau, Cathy Hoffman;
Alternate Members: Laura Bianco, Joe Connelly, Karen Bridgeo
Staff: Connie Cain
Guests: James Plummer, Rich McDonough

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

PLANNING BOARD – Cathy Hoffman

The Planning Board met on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. The primary focus was a conceptual subdivision plan for the property owned by Hans & Kathleen Olson at the intersection of North Pepperell Road and Worcester Road, MBLU 002-044, consisting of 18.18 acres. Historically, the property has been referred to as the “Worcester Nursery” and was formerly part of the Worcester Farm. This property has been leased for agricultural production for many years. Abutters have concerns about potential impact to wetlands and wildlife, and the neighborhood in general. The Planning Board is holding a site walk on the property on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 8:00 am. HCC Members are encouraged to attend; the site walk is open to the public, but public input or questions will not be allowed.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Thomas Davies

As of November 9, 2019, the HCC account balance was \$672,678.73; accounting for the \$10,000 held in reserve, this leaves a balance of \$662,678.73 available as cash. T. Davies noted that at the Selectboard meeting on Monday, November 18, 2019, there had been a discussion about balances or funds in Town Boards and Committees accounts which are not being utilized. A brief discussion about the stewardship reserve occurred.

There were no Selectboard or Workgroup updates at meeting time.

NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS

Birch Hill Properties

J. Bruneau spoke with Anna Birch recently, and as part of the conversation, she asked about Management Plan created for the Birch Hill lots. At the November 18, 2019 Selectboard meeting, the Board discussed target shooting on the property, with abutters expressing concern in regards to public safety and noise. J. Bruneau brought up the point that while hunting is allowed on Town properties, each has a start and end time established by State Law; target shooting does not. The Selectboard did not make a decision one way or the other on the matter.

On September 4, 2019, the Birch Hill Management Plan was reviewed by HCC members. This needs to be brought forward to the Selectboard, and the Town Administrator consulted with for a potential date to discuss this and the potential Conservation Easement on the property with the Board.

Worcester Road Neighborhood Group

R. McDonough introduced himself as an abutter to the Olson property, as discussed in the Planning Board update. He asked if the HCC could request a stay on any decisions for the Worcester Road subdivision until the Group had a chance to discuss the property with the HCC. L. Wolff stated that she will make that request.

Members felt that the property discussion should take place once Chair Tom Dufresne had returned; this discussion was tentatively scheduled for the December 18, 2019 meeting as a non-public item.

Holiday Meeting Schedule

As January 1, 2020 falls on the first Wednesday of the month, L. Wolff asked members to consider cancelling that meeting. All other meetings will be held as scheduled.

J. Connelly made the motion to cancel the meeting scheduled for January 1, 2020; seconded by L. Wolff. All members in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was cancelled by a vote of 7-0-0.

(J. Plummer and R. McDonough left the meeting at 7:40 pm.)

62 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

63 *L. Wolff motioned to enter into Non-Public session to discuss potential land acquisition under RSA 91-A:3, II (d);*
64 *seconded by T. Davies. L. Wolff polled the members, all those present voted to enter into Non-Public session by a vote*
65 *of 7-0-0. The HCC entered into Non-Public Session at 7:41 pm.*
66

67 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

68 *J. Bruneau motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to*
69 *release, seconded by L. Wolff. L. Wolff polled the members, all members voted to conclude the Non-Public session*
70 *and keep the minutes sealed by a vote of 7-0-0. The HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 8:01 pm.*
71

72 **MINUTES**

73 *L. Wolff made the motion to accept the public minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting as written; seconded by J.*
74 *Bruneau. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-*
75 *0.*
76

77 *L. Wolff made the motion to accept the non-public minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting as written and to keep*
78 *them sealed until voted to release; seconded by C. Hoffman. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained,*
79 *and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0-0.*
80

81 **ADJOURNMENT**

82 *J. Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by L. Wolff. All members in favor, none opposed, and the*
83 *motion carried by a vote of 7-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.*
84

85 Respectfully submitted,
86 Connie Cain
87 Staff