

1 HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2 Minutes of Public Meeting

3 December 18, 2019

4 Approved January 15, 2020

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- 6 Regular Members: Tom Dufresne, LeeAnn Wolff, Thomas Davies, Jonathan Bruneau, Cathy Hoffman, Mark Post;
- 7 Alternate Members: Laura Bianco, Paul Edmunds, Cheryl Quaine, Karen Bridgeo.
- 8 BOS Ex-Officio: Peter Band
- 9 Staff: Connie Cain

10 Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

11 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

12
13 *T. Dufresne motioned to enter into Non-Public session to discuss potential land acquisition under RSA 91-A:3, II (d);*
14 *seconded by C. Hoffman. T. Dufresne polled the members, all those present voted to enter into Non-Public session by*
15 *a vote of 10-0-0. The HCC entered into Non-Public Session at 7:01 pm.*
16

17 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

18 *T. Dufresne motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to*
19 *release, seconded by J. Bruneau. T. Dufresne polled the members, all members voted to conclude the Non-Public*
20 *session and keep the minutes sealed by a vote of 10-0-0. The HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 7:43 pm.*
21

22 Based on discussion in non-public session,

23 *K. Bridgeo motioned that the HCC compose a letter to the Planning Board (PB) to request that an independent*
24 *wildlife study/analysis be conducted on the property, with the biologist/scientist to be chosen by the HCC prior to*
25 *any plan approval; seconded by T. Dufresne. All members in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion*
26 *carried by a vote of 10-0-0.*
27

28 T. Dufresne will compose a letter and send to members for review prior to submitting to the PB. HCC Members will also
29 arrange a site walk of the property. C. Hoffman will also inform the Town Planner of this evening’s discussion.
30

31 **BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES**

32 *BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Peter Band*

33 P. Band stated that the Recreation Commission has proposed and the Selectboard approved funding for a Land Study on
34 the vacant land to the east of the Public Works Department off Muzzey Road. This study will be to determine the suitability
35 of the land for proposed Recreation Fields.
36

37 *PLANNING BOARD – Cathy Hoffman*

38 Items discussed at the December 17, 2019 meeting included a 5-lot conceptual plan for property at the intersection of
39 Worcester and North Pepperell Roads, among others. K. Bridgeo detailed the proposal for an in-home business at 287
40 South Merrimack Road for counselling services to be provided by the owner, Beth Frankel. As part of the counselling
41 services, a “farm experience” will be offered, for both children and adults. After some discussion, this use was approved.
42 M. Post noted that the counselling services were first thought to fall under agritourism; there are differences between
43 medical therapies and other types of services that may provide a similar experience. Medical therapy is not considered
44 agritourism.
45

46 *AGRICULTURAL & HCC JOINT WORKGROUP*

47 M. Post stated that the Workgroup is waiting for the draft Lease document back from the Town Attorney.
48

49 There was no Treasurer’s Report available at meeting time.
50

51 **NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS**

52 *LAND USE – Thom Davies*

53 T. Davies asked P. Band to request that the Selectboard address the issue of target shooting on Town Land, especially that
54 under the control of the HCC. He felt that target shooting should not be allowed on Conservation Land. T. Dufresne tabled
55 this discussion, as a petition Warrant Article has been proposed for the 2020 Town Meeting which should address this
56 matter.
57
58
59
60

61 WILDLIFE STUDY SCIENTIST

62 J. Bruneau asked how requests are made to the PB in regards to Wildlife Studies or other similar reports; he felt that the
63 HCC could hire a qualified individual and have those study results passed on to the PB. T. Dufresne stated that, if the HCC
64 independently hired such an individual, the costs would be paid by the HCC and not the developer, as is presently done.
65 Under present law, the HCC is an advisory board to the PB, and without their request, the creation of such a report could
66 be deemed illegal, due to State Law. Further discussion on vetting specialists and potential conflict of interest briefly
67 occurred. C. Hoffman will see if she can locate list of specialists previously compiled.

68
69 CONSERVATION PROPERTY PARKING LOTS

70 J. Bruneau asked if there are any contracts for snow plowing of Conservation Property parking lots; and if yes, were any
71 up for renewal. T. Dufresne stated that only the parking lot which is plowed is for the Conservation property at the
72 intersection of French Mill and Rideout Roads, and is done by the Town Dept. of Public Works. P. Band felt if it was not
73 out of the regular plowing route, the Director could be asked to do some additional areas. J. Bruneau felt it could be
74 contracted out to a private party; T. Dufresne requested that J. Bruneau put together a list of potential plow
75 drivers/contractors who might be willing to plow the few other parking areas. T. Dufresne will also speak to the DPW
76 Director Todd Croteau to discuss if any additional areas could be plowed.

77
78 WOODMONT WEST

79 K. Bridgeo asked if anything further had been determined about the State of New Hampshire request to create a logging
80 road across a section of Woodmont West, to access timber on the Silver Lake State Park property. T. Dufresne stated that
81 Nichols-Smith Land Trust, as the Conservation Easement holder, had denied this request; they had informed the State.
82 Nothing further had been communicated to date.

83
84 WETLAND GUIDANCE

85 C. Quaine volunteered to compile a report to provide guidance to the HCC when reviewing requests to allow wetland
86 buffer disturbance, as this has happened several times over the past year or two. A brief discussion was held, members
87 agreed that such a report would allow for more consistency in the future. C. Quaine will research and report back to the
88 HCC.

89
90 LUDWIG SIERGIEWICZ FARM

91 T. Dufresne has received a rough estimate from Amos White to mow the field on the property; T. Dufresne felt that a
92 Moose Plate or other Grant could be applied for to cover the costs. Craig Birch still needs to finish the timber harvest on
93 the property, which will be done next year. As part of this year's timber harvest, a previously unknown cellar hole was
94 discovered. This will need to be marked and the location sited by GPS. As per an agreement with the Selectboard the
95 proceeds from the timber harvest will be used towards invasive species mitigation on the property. C. Quaine was asked
96 if the Boy Scout Troup would be interested in collecting slash from the timber harvest, and burning onsite. C. Cain also
97 suggested that the Hollis Fire Department Explorers group could also be asked.

98
99 PITARYS DONATION

100 T. Dufresne was asked for an update on this item. To the best of his knowledge, Mr. Pitarys' attorney has the documents,
101 and any proposed changes have not been communicated to Atty. Tom Quinn for the HCC. T. Dufresne will follow-up with
102 Atty. Quinn, as he would like to close prior to 2020 Town Meeting.

103
104 COUGHLIN LOT ANNUAL MOWING

105 T. Dufresne received a bill from William H. Hall Jr. for the annual mowing of the Coughlin Lot on Merrill Lane, in the
106 amount of \$250.00.

107 *T. Dufresne motioned to pay this bill in the amount of \$250.00, as stated; seconded by P. Edmunds. All members in
108 favor, none opposed or abstained, and the motion carried by a vote of 10-0-0. Staff will submit to the Finance Office
109 for payment.*

110
111
112 MINUTES

113 *T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the public minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting as written; seconded by
114 T. Davies. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 10-0-
115 0.*

116
117 *T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the non-public minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting as written and to
118 keep them sealed until voted to release; seconded by J. Bruneau. All members voted in favor, none opposed or
119 abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 10-0-0.*

120

121 **ADJOURNMENT**

122 *T. Davies motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by T. Dufresne. All members in favor, none opposed, and the*
123 *motion carried by a vote of 10-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.*

124
125 Respectfully submitted,
126 Connie Cain
127 Staff