

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Meeting

June 17, 2020

Approved July 15, 2020

Regular Members: Tom Dufresne, LeeAnn Wolff, Thomas Davies, Mark Post, Paul Edmunds, Jonathan Bruneau;
Alternate Members: Laura Bianco, Cheryl Quaine;
BOS Ex-Officio: Peter Band
Staff: Connie Cain
Attendees: David Werner, Potential New Member

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

T. Dufresne noted that due to the State of Emergency enacted by Gov. Sununu shortly after the March 4, 2020 meeting that the Conservation Commission has been unable to meet until this evening. The Annual Roadside Clean-up event was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well. Social distancing at meetings, and limits to the amount of people who can attend public meetings will be in accordance with CDC and State protocols.

T. Dufresne introduced David Werner as a potential new member, D. Werner introduced himself, and said he moved to Hollis about 3 years ago from California where he had been a civil trial attorney dealing primarily with environmental issues. He is an avid conservationist, and hopes he can assist the HCC in its endeavors.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Peter Band

As Town Meeting was postponed due to the pandemic, it has been rescheduled for June 20, 2020 at the HBHS Lacrosse Field, at 10:00 am. There were some items that have been pulled from the Warrant for reconsideration at the 2021 Town Meeting, including all the petition warrant articles. P. Band anticipates that the entire meeting will last about 45 minutes. As of meeting time, the Stefanowicz Farm subdivision is still on the warrant, but the potential sale of the house lot may be delayed.

PLANNING BOARD – Tom Dufresne

T. Dufresne attended the Planning Board meeting on June 16, 2020. The following items were discussed:

- 1.) Olson Subdivision, Worcester Rd, MBLU 002-044
A site walk was held on Saturday, June 13, 2020, and was well attended. It was determined that the vernal pool on the property was mainly on the abutting MacMillan property, maybe about 10% is on the Olson property. T. Dufresne felt that the future owner of that lot could be given a letter asking for the owner to leave the area as pollinator habitat. The HCC could seed and mow that particular area, as per the environmental report. T. Dufresne will write a letter with suggestions to the Planning Board for their review. There is a 100 foot wetland buffer shown on the plan, and the Planning Board has suggested that Wetland Buffer signs be placed around the buffer as part of the final plan approval.
- 2.) Hollis Hills Subdivision on South Merrimack Rd, MBLU 043-009, etc. The plan was approved approximately 10 years ago, but no development occurred. The entire 92 +/- acre development was recently purchased by the DePaulis family, who have requested that the subdivision be rescinded and the lots consolidated into one lot. This subdivision had a number of wetland issues, including vernal pools, and this request will allow those areas to remain undisturbed. The Planning Board approved the request.
- 3.) Runnells Bridge Road Design Review, MBLU 005-028-001, 005-028-002, 005-028-003.
The Public Hearing was held on this project which includes plans for a gas station, retail store, and residential apartment. The traffic pattern discussion took over an hour. Additional discussion on this project will continue at the next meeting. T. Dufresne noted that the traffic pattern is an issue, as well as the property being sited over a major aquifer; both abutters and the Town of Pepperell MA have issues with the gas station, as this aquifer is where the abutters and the Town of Pepperell well receives its water.

T. Dufresne has met with PB Chair Bill Mosley, Mark Fougere and Evan Clements to discuss a replacement member for Cathy Hoffman, as Cathy was both a Planning Board and HCC member, and served as a liaison. While this is still in discussion, it was felt that an existing Planning Board member could be asked to also serve as a HCC member.

Joint Agricultural & Conservation Stefanowicz Farm Subcommittee – Mark Post

M. Post informed members that the lease bids are due July 2, 2020. To date, all interest appears to be solely from local farmers. M. Post asked if the Conservation area of the property would be considered for maple tapping, as one of the

61 current lessees is interested in continuing to tap trees on a larger scale. Some discussion on leaving tubing year round
62 and other associated matters. This will be discussed further if the anticipated bid is submitted.

63
64 M. Post informed members that the Agricultural Commission has drone aerials of the Stefanowicz Farm that were created
65 in March this year before the leaves were out. These are in the production process, and M. Post will share when completed.
66 T. Dufresne stated that a management plan be created for the Conservation portion of the property; Jim Oehler is not
67 available at this time. Chris Kane can be consulted to create the plan as well.

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69 (J. Bruneau arrived at 7:25 pm.)

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71 There was no recent Treasurer's Report available at meeting time.

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73 **2020 OFFICER ELECTIONS**

74 T. Dufresne opened up the floor for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.
75 *P. Edmunds motioned to re-elect the existing slate of Officers for the 2020 term, being Tom Dufresne, Chair; LeeAnn*
76 *Wolff, Vice-Chair; Thom Davies, Treasurer; and Jonathan Bruneau, Secretary; seconded by M. Post. All those*
77 *nominated accepted. Members called to vote, and the motion carried by an unanimous vote of 8-0-0.*

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79 **NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS**

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81 *Release of Non-Public Minutes*

82 Periodically, the HCC reviews non-public minutes to be released to the public, under RSA 91-A, and has reviewed the
83 following non-public minutes for release to the public:

84 January 8, 2014	May 21, 2014	July 16, 2014	January 7, 2015
85 January 21, 2015	June 3, 2015	January 4, 2017	January 18, 2017
86 March 1, 2017	April 5, 2017	April 19, 2017	June 21, 2017
87 July 19, 2017	August 16, 2017	September 6, 2017	October 18, 2017
88 January 17, 2018	February 21, 2018	April 4, 2018	September 5, 2018

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90 *T. Dufresne motioned to release the listed non-public minutes to the public, seconded by L. Wolff. All members voted*
91 *in favor of releasing the minutes to the public, none opposed; and the motioned carried by a vote of 8-0-0*

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93 *Summer Internship*

94 Helen Homola, a local resident, will be mapping invasive species at the Ludwig Siergiewicz Farm over the summer as her
95 senior project. Some discussion about the project, and invasive species. T. Dufresne noted that bittersweet seeds stay
96 viable for up to 7 years, and there are a multitude of invasive species that have been found on the property, including
97 burning bush and multiflora rose, in addition to bittersweet.

98
99 Katie Gatto, who is attending Bowdoin College will also be doing a milkweed study over the summer, to determine which
100 bug species are eating the plants. There are areas on Woodmont West, the Flint Pond well property off Broad Street, and
101 at the Stefanowicz Farm. The HCC should receive a copy of the study when it's complete.

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103 *Correspondence*

104 Christopher McPherson had contacted the HCC regarding the Grasshopper Sparrow, which is on the New Hampshire List
105 of Endangered & Threatened Species. This is the second year that he has located the bird species on the west side of
106 Woodmont West, and wanted to bring this to the HCC's attention. A second email from a Hollis resident on the same topic
107 followed. Discussion of the planting techniques on the lease area where the bird was found. T. Dufresne noted that this
108 gives some impetus to continue the work on the Ludwig Siergiewicz Farm as well.

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110 Additionally, it is anticipated that Craig Birch will be finishing the timber harvest on the Siergiewicz Farm this summer.

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112 *Parking Areas*

113 P. Edmonds stated that he has received some complaints about the lack of parking for several HCC properties, including
114 the Birch Hill properties. Previously, a property owner had allowed use of a portion of his property to be used for parking
115 but has since disallowed the use. Parking for 3-5 vehicles including horse trailers should be explored. T. Dufresne will
116 speak with Joan Cudworth, DPW Director, about parking areas. T. Dufresne tasked P. Edmunds to create a list of those
117 properties which may benefit.

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119 At the July 15, 2020 meeting, the annual monitoring reports, created by Chris Kane, will be discussed, along with other
120 items put on hold due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

After some discussion, members agreed that the July 1st and the August 5th meetings will be cancelled this summer. The July 15th and August 19th meetings will continue as scheduled. The regular schedule of 1st and 3rd Wednesday will continue in September.

T. Dufresne motioned to cancel the July 1st and August 5th, 2020 meetings; seconded by M. Post. All members in favor, none opposed, and motion carried by a vote of 8-0-0.

MINUTES

T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2020 meeting as written; seconded by T. Davies. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

T. Dufresne motioned to enter into Non-Public session to discuss potential land acquisition under RSA 91-A:3, II (d); seconded by J. Bruneau. T. Dufresne polled the members, all those present voted to enter into Non-Public session by a vote of 8-0-0. The HCC entered into Non-Public Session at 8:30 pm.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

T. Dufresne motioned to conclude the Non-Public session and to keep the minutes sealed until voted by the HCC to release, seconded by P. Edmunds. T. Dufresne polled the members, all members voted to conclude the Non-Public session and keep the minutes sealed by a vote of 8-0-0. The HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 9:20 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by M. Post. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 8-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Cain
Staff