

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Public Meeting

February 3, 2021

Approved February 17, 2021

Regular Members: Tom Dufresne, LeeAnn Wolff, Thomas Davies, Jonathan Bruneau, Mark Post,
Alternate Members: Laura Bianco, Karen Bridgeo, James Plummer, David Werner.
BOS Ex-Officio: Peter Band
Staff: Connie Cain

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY WITHOUT A PHYSICAL LOCATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNOR SUNUNU'S EMERGENCY ORDERS #12, 16, & 17.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Peter Band

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) has been primarily addressing the 2021 Budget Process. The Flint Pond Improvement Association (FPIA) had requested \$15,000 funding from the Town as a Warrant Article. Neither the BOS nor the Budget Committee are in favor of funding in this manner, and have requested that the FPIA meet with the HCC to discuss potential funding. The BOS would like the HCC to find out if these funding requests will be ongoing, if this funding is necessary to keep Flint's Pond from deteriorating further, and if the FPIA is also funding the continuing invasive species control. T. Dufresne stated that he has spoken to Dave Connor, former HCC member, who is still on the FPIA Board, and he and the new president will arrange to speak with the HCC on the matter.

P. Band also informed members that the petition Warrant Articles, postponed at last year's Town Meeting, are anticipated to be back on the agenda for the Town Meeting. One article is to allow target shooting and hunting on Town property, the other would be against target shooting. Some discussion occurred, with the HCC to discuss and restate opinion at a future meeting.

The sale of the Stefanowicz house lot, to be known as MBLU 032-002-001, is scheduled to occur by the end of the week.

There were no Planning Board Updates or Treasurer's Report available at meeting time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wetland Buffer signs

Evan Clements, Asst. Planner, informed T. Dufresne that the "Wetland Buffer" sign supply is low, and additional signs should be ordered. T. Dufresne has received a number of quotes, with the lowest being about \$5.60 per sign with a 10 year guarantee. The Planning Board is recommending that 500 signs be ordered, which will come to \$2800 total.

Based on Planning Board requirements, these signs are placed around wetland areas in subdivisions. The Planning Board sells the signs to the developers as part of an approved subdivision plan. Members asked how signs are mounted, T. Dufresne will check with the Planning Office.

J. Bruneau motioned to approve the expenditure of \$2800 towards the purchase of the Wetland Buffer signs as stated; seconded by L. Wolff. All members in favor, none opposed, and the motion carried by a vote of 9-0-0.

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 T. Davies. T. Dufresne polled the members, all those present voted to enter into Non-Public session by a vote of 9-0-0. The HCC entered into Non-Public Session at 7:18 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 J. Bruneau. T. Dufresne polled the members, all members voted to conclude the Non-Public session and keep the minutes sealed by a vote of 9-0-0. The HCC concluded Non-Public Session at 7:31 pm.

59 **OTHER BUSINESS *continued***

60
61 *Stefanowicz Agricultural Lease – Mark Post*

62 Brookdale Fruit Farm (Brookdale) has started work on the lease portion of the property, and are working with NRCS to
63 create a plan for the property. The western side of the property, referred to as the “Conservation” side of the property
64 will also need a Forest Management plan. Brookdale may be willing to create both plans for the property, would the HCC
65 consider having Brookdale do both? Costs were discussed, and T. Dufresne stated that usually any timber harvest
66 proceeds go to the general fund. The BOS would have to approve setting aside any of those funds for reimbursement or
67 other uses. Discussion about timber harvesting plans, and other associated items.

68
69 K. Bridgeo asked what the next step would be to allow for public access to the property. T. Dufresne had walked the site
70 with Trevor Hardy of Brookdale, and it appears the best site for a parking area would be near the Colby house at 146
71 Nartoff Road. The lower section of the property is too wet and has other issues; parking for only 2 or 3 cars is feasible.
72 Additionally, the entrance to the upper portion of the property needs to be enlarged to allow for logging trucks or similar
73 vehicles, so placing the parking area would allow for only one area to be disturbed. Access beyond the parking area would
74 be locked and gated to prevent vehicle access.

75
76 J. Bruneau asked about area on the western side of property, would there be a clear cut or selective? Any timber
77 harvesting would be done in accordance with a best management plan. There are also a lot of invasives on the property
78 and some of the areas currently forested were fields back in the 1960’s. Trevor Hardy plans on coming in to discuss with
79 the HCC once COVID-19 protocols are lifted. He would like to work with the Town to show how both government and
80 agriculture can work together.

81
82 M. Post noted that the western half of the property is not suitable for agricultural use, best use is as forest. Trevor Hardy
83 would like to work with the Town to create wildlife habitat on some of the portions not in the agricultural lease. M. Post
84 further stated that these are just suggestions, nothing is firm or planned upon at this time, but is advice from Brookdale
85 on the future use of the property.

86
87 **MINUTES**

88 *T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the public minutes of the January 6, 2021 meeting as written; seconded by*
89 *M. Post. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0-0.*

90
91 *T. Dufresne made the motion to accept the non-public minutes of the January 6, 2021 meeting as written and to keep*
92 *them sealed until voted to release; seconded by K. Bridgeo. All members voted in favor, none opposed or abstained,*
93 *and the minutes were approved and kept sealed by a vote of 9-0-0.*

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95 **ADJOURNMENT**

96 *T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by T. Davies. All members in favor, none opposed, and the*
97 *motion carried by a vote of 9-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.*

98
99 Respectfully submitted,
100 Connie Cain
101 Staff