

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
April 16, 2024 Meeting
Held at the Hopkinton Town Hall

4/16/2024 Minutes – DRAFT

Present: Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Bob LaPree, Bonnie Christie, Molly Hardenbergh, Stephanie Kratsios
Alternate: Katherine Mitchell
Visitor: Melissa Jones

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Ron Klemarczyk, Acting Chair.

1. HCC public and non-public minutes for February 20, 2024 and March 19, 2024 were accepted as presented.
2. HCC mail: Alteration of Terrain permit for Foster Materials Gravel was received.
3. Treasurer's report: Melissa Jones reported that at the end of March the balance in the Conservation account was \$183,643. Town Forest account was \$25,291. Bonnie Christie presented the final invoice of \$1,225 for the NRI. Bonnie moved to authorize payment, the motion was seconded by Molly and passed unanimously. Rob presented an invoice for \$65 for the registration fee for Saving Special Places conference. Bonnie also requested reimbursement for her registration fee, although she was not able to attend the conference. Bob moved to authorize payment for both, the motion was seconded by Molly and passed unanimously.
4. Commission membership: The HCC has lost three members: James Newsom, Jonathan Bradstreet, and Melissa Jones. Molly Hardenbergh and Stephanie Kratsios have already been appointed as full members. Discussed additional alternate members. Karen Ladd is interested in wetlands and wildlife and will attend the May meeting. Scott Clay (Katherine Mitchell's husband) has expressed interest in membership. Discussed the desirability of potential members attending a HCC meeting before joining the commission.
5. Commission officer positions: The following officers were nominated and approved unanimously:
 - Chair: Ron Klemarczyk
 - Vice Chair: Bonnie Christie
 - Secretary: Rob Knight
 - Treasurer: Katherine Mitchell (pending appointment as a full member)
6. Saving Special Places conference: Rob reported on a workshop he attended on wetland buffers, which recommended less restrictions on cutting trees in buffers to allow buffers to remain brushy. Brushy habitat near water is prime wildlife habitat.
7. Tyler Landing update: The aluminum bridge needs to be put into position. Ron will investigate how that can be done and report back. Discussed a possible pollinator garden. Discussed having it installed and maintained professionally. Continuing maintenance will be needed. There could be an educational element involved with school kids. Stephanie will investigate the costs involved. The area will need to be cleaned up from the refugee gardens – there is a lot of buried black plastic and fencing remaining. The refugee garden agreement runs for five years to 1/14/2026.

8. Ransmeier parking lot and hazard tree: The Highway Department removed the tree that fell across the entrance to the parking area. A neighbor has complained about a dead elm which is a hazard. By law, once notified, the town is liable for any damage the tree causes. Bonnie moved that Ron contact Jeff Dearborn and arrange for him to remove the tree. Bob seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
9. Trails: There is a lot of damage from the storms. Ron and Rob have cleared the blowdowns at Hawthorne Forest. There are a lot of blowdowns off Burrage Road. Ron will clear Hemlock Spur off the rail trail.
10. Natural Resource Inventory maps: We need large laminated maps for town hall. Ron will suggest to Karen Roberts that she have them printed at Staples or Fedex.
11. Legislative update: Bonnie had no update.
12. Planning board update: Molly reported that a conceptual plan was presented to the Planning Board for development of 11 house lots on Bound Tree and North Shore roads. It would involve upgrading North Shore Road from Class VI to a Class V road. Discussed how the area is rated in the NRI.
13. Earth Day: Bonnie reported that April 22 is Earth Day, and requested that the HCC co-sponsor the roadside cleanup on 4/20 with the Waste Reduction Committee. No funds are involved. Rob moved to co-sponsor the roadside cleanup with the Waste Reduction Committee, Bob seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
14. HCC annual workplan: Bonnie suggested that the HCC should have an annual workplan. For example, a workplan could incorporate some of the recommendations in the NRI. Bonnie volunteered to draft a 2024 workplan.
15. Improved HCC public outreach: Molly feels we should do more outreach, for example in Susan Covert's emails or on Facebook. Let residents know what the HCC is doing.
16. Meeting time: Bonnie proposed meeting earlier than 7:00. An earlier meeting time might be difficult for working members, so no change was made.

Bob made a motion, seconded by Stephanie to adjourn to non-public meeting per RSA 91 A:3 II (d) Acquisition of real estate. Vote was unanimous in favor. The Committee adjourned to non-public session at 8:25 PM. The Committee returned from non-public session at 8:47 PM. Bob made a motion, seconded by Stephanie to seal the minutes until the project is able to go public or removed from consideration. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM. Next HCC meeting is scheduled for 7:00 on May 21, 2024 at the Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by Rob Knight.