

Hopkinton Conservation Commission
October 23, 2023 Public Hearing & Special Meeting
Held at the Hopkinton Town Hall

Present: James Newsom, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, Jonathan Bradstreet, Bonnie Christie,
Alternates: Molly Hardenbergh, Katherine Mitchell,
Absent: Melissa Jones, Bob LaPree, Stephanie Kratsios

10/23/2023 Minutes – Approved 11/21/23

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING with Select Board: Parmenter Conservation Land Acquisition

Hearing was called to order at 6:00 PM by Sabrina Dunlap.

Parmenter gift of 17 acres on Beech Hill Road: Rob Knight testified: the 17-acre parcel of land is a gift to the town from Carol Parmenter, and the purpose of the gift is to preserve and protect the wildlife habitat on the property. It comes with a deed restriction that does not allow for any construction or development or timber harvesting.

The property was reviewed by the Open Space Committee using their Selection Criteria Checklist and it was ranked as a worthwhile property due to its location abutting the Kimball Farm conserved land and the scenic rural character of Beech Hill Road. Specifically:

- It buffers and expands other conservation land.
- It provides travel corridors for wildlife.
- It protects the scenic rural character of Beech Hill Road.

For these reasons, the Conservation Commission would like to accept this gift, and has agreed to pay Carol Parmenter's legal expenses in preparing the deed: \$3,600. Other than this cost, the property is a gift to the town.

Ron Klemarczyk testified as to the importance for wildlife of large tracts of land, and that this parcel will expand large tracts of land in the area. He also clarified that, although there would be no timber harvesting, we would be permitted to clean up trees downed by storms and to address insect infested trees.

Louise Carr spoke to express concern that, with the town already having so much open space land, the town needs to make land available for housing and businesses.

The hearing was closed by Sabrina Dunlap at 6:10.

HOPKINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by James Newsom.

1. Motion was made by James Newsom to accept the deed from Carol Parmenter. The motion was seconded by Rob Knight and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM. Minutes submitted by Rob Knight.