



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission



Ken Dickinson, Chairman

Dave Morin, Selectmen Liaison

12 School Street • Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 • Tel: 603-886-6008 • Fax: 603-816-1291

DATE: October 15, 2018

MEETING MINUTES: Below is a listing of minutes for the Hudson Conservation Commission. Minutes are not a verbatim record of each meeting, but rather represent a summary of the discussion and actions taken at the meeting. All Conservation Commission meetings are televised live and repeated during the following week on HCTV, Cable Television Channel 22. Official copies of the minutes are available to read and copy at the Town Engineer's Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.).

Should you have any questions concerning these minutes or wish to see the original recording, please contact the Town Engineer's Office at (603)-886-6008.

A meeting of the Hudson Conservation Commission (HCC) was held in the Community Development Room in Town Hall, 12 School Street, Hudson NH.

Roll Call

Ken Dickinson Chairman <u> X </u>	Randy Brownrigg Vice-Chair <u> X </u>	Elliott Veloso Secretary <u> E </u>	William Collins Member <u> X </u>
Michael Tsu Member <u> X </u>	Michael Drouin Member <u> X </u>	Brett Gagnon Member <u> X </u>	Paula Hubert Alternate <u> E </u>
Jennifer Parkhurst Alternate <u> X </u>	David Morin Select. Rep. <u> E </u>	Elvis Dhima Town Staff <u> E </u>	

Call to Order

Called to Order at 07:14 P.M. by Chairman Ken Dickinson

Seating of Alternates

Mrs. Parkhurst was seated as member at 7:15 PM.

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items.

None

I. Old Business

A. Wetlands Special Exception Application for a new garage at 2 Alvirne Drive. (Tax Map 138 / Lot 061-000).

Applicant not present at the evenings meeting; a site walk was performed by Bill Collins and Randy Brownrigg. Bill Collins noted the area for the requested garage and driveway were open. The land had a gradual slope towards a Juridical Wetland, no standing water. Mr. Collins suggested that the applicant should follow proper erosion control during construction and afterwards to apply a stone aggregate around the base to prevent further erosion caused by the increase concentrated runoff by the new roof and driveway. Mr. Brownrigg noted that the tree line appeared far enough beyond the construction area that it should not be touched. Ken Dickinson believes once the applicant provides the required numbers on his application that the HCC could view it favorably. Brett Gagnon asked if any further discussion was had around adding additional shrubs/trees to absorb excess water runoff. It was not clear if any discussion involving that was had between the applicant and builder. Topic was tabled until further details from the applicant.

II. New Business

A. Merrill Park Emergency Boat Launch/Maintenance and Guertin Parcel Discussion

Michael Drouin commented that Guertin property might be conservation land but needs to confirm it through deed restrictions. He noted ATV and walking trails on the land when he viewed the site. He also commented that an easement over the Nash property from Musquash to Guertin property would make a large joined piece of conservation land if the Guertin property was indeed conservation land. Mr. Dickinson noted that a trail from the Copper Hill Road was previous in the works before but had been ceased. He advised that the HCC contact the Town Assessor and get a list of properties the town is trying to sell before going any further as the Town may be trying to sell that parcel. Mr. Gagnon added a note of his understanding that the Town may only sell land in which it acquires it through tax liens. Mr. Collins requested Mr. Drouin to perform additional research, provide better maps, and understanding of property ownership, to be presented to the HCC in the November meeting.

Merrill Park Emergency Boat Launch

Selectman Morin provided plans from 1987. Mr. Drouin said that several companies had donated to the Litchfield boat launch and suggested the HCC could also do the same to raise funds or material to make the Hudson boat launch area more accessible. He noted on his walk of the area increase poison ivy, Japanese knot wood, and other invasive species that may have been placed there due to snow removal. Mr. Dickinson noted that previous abutting land owners did not want a boat launch next to their property but a change in ownership may lead the HCC to be able to

revisit the subject. He also suggested that the committee investigate grants for improving the area to make it easier for the Fire Department and Rescue Teams to access the river. Mr. Dickinson said he would reach out to Jim Bass and Sara Siskavich in regard to any information on possible funding/grants. Mr. Collins noted the Highway Dept. had removed the down tree at Merrill Park and fixed the ditch at Musquash in the parking area. Mr. Collins also suggested reaching out to the Lower Merrimack River Advisory.

B. LCHIP Annual Boundary Walks/Stewardship Report at Musquash and Tri-Town Forest

Mr. Dickinson noted that the trails at the Tri-Town Forest have an abundant growth of wild rose impeding many trails and that Musquash also had noticeable growth from other plant life blocking trails. A workday to perform the Boundary Walk was scheduled for November 10th 9:00 AM EST meeting at the Musquash Parking Lot. Mr. Dickinson noted that the Mill Road kiosk does not have a map. He will reach out to SPNF as well in regards to their timber harvest timeline.

For more information, please refer to the meeting recording on HCTV-ch22.

C. Land Use Change Tax Discussion – “What it Means to the HCC”

Mr. Gagnon shared a prepared statement that he would later share at a BOS meeting to emphasize the importance of conservation land and the funding of conservation projects. He also presented the Warrant Article the HCC hopes to pass to increase funding coming from Land Use Change Taxes.

“ARTICLE XXX: 75% OF REVENUES OF FUTURE PAYMENTS FROM LAND USE CHANGE TAX PLACED INTO CONSERVATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to place 75% of the revenues of all future payments collected from the Land Use Change Tax into the Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-a:5 III, as authorized under the provisions of RSA 79-A:25 II, said monies to be used for the acquisition of conservation land, conservation easements, development rights and the costs associated therewith.”

He presented studies and comments from researchers supporting the use of land change taxes to procure conservation land. Currently, 10% of land value when purchased for development is split 50/50 for the conservation and general use fund. The proposed warrant would change the split from 75/25 respectively.

Mr. Drouin asked why the HCC does not ask for 100% of the funds and support putting the warrant article on ballot by obtaining 25 signatures. Both Mr. Collins and Gagnon agreed it would be very hard to pass a warrant article without the support of the BOS.

III. Other Business

A. Maintenance Equipment Purchasing

Randy Brownrigg presented to the committee the equipment that would be purchased and stored at the Benson Farm building basement. He noted with the purchase of Stihl equipment from Fisette Small Motor shop in Hudson a certified safety training would be offered at no cost to the

commission. Mr. Dickinson noted that the equipment purchase would not include a soil auger or sampling kits but suggested it could be purchased the following year with budgeted funds. The total equipment purchase was within the budget agreed upon by the commission and the components were reviewed.

A motion was made by William Collins to have Mr. Brownrigg to not spend more than \$2,150.00 from the Hudson Conservation Commission Small Equipment Maintenance Fund, Account Number 06-4619-5586-202-000 for the purpose of purchasing one (1) chainsaw and two (2) brush cutters along with the necessary power equipment accessories and associated safety equipment for use of such equipment. The purchased power equipment will be used only by property trained conservation commission member for periodic train maintenance at the properties for which the conservation commission is responsible for.

Motion by: William Collins

Seconded by: Randy Brownrigg

Vote: For: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain:

For more information, please refer to the meeting recording on HCTV-ch22.

IV. Financial Status

Mr. Dickinson reviewed the standing financial status citing monies from the HCC were used to pay NHCC registration. Mr. Dickinson also noted for future HCC budget an increase was made due to discussions with Mr. Dhima which revealed the HCC could not use incumbered monies to pay for new pond treatments. No other immediate issues or discrepancies were brought up regarding the current financial status.

A. Correspondence

Glen and Jane Bowls (Volunteer Lake Assessment Program) sent an email out to the town requesting funding for 2020. They noted the financial support of the Conservation Committee has aided in the maintenance of Robinson Pond.

Zoning determination for 35 Weymouth Court (Sparkling River) was approved and sent out via email to HCC.

NHCC 2019 membership dues of \$1,050 were expended from the Conservation Commission funds. Mr. Gagnon asked for clarification on what the dues provide the HCC access to. Mr. Dickinson noted that the NHCC provides access to many resources and assistance for Wetland applications and rules.

B. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Jennifer Parkhurst to approve the September 10, 2018 minutes as

amended.

**Motion by: Jennifer Parkhurst
Seconded by: Randy Brownrigg**

Vote: For: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

C. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Dickinson thanked both Mrs. Parkhurst for her efforts in leading the guided hike and Mr. Drouin for his focused work on cleaning Merrill Park.

Mr. Drouin asked for results on Rangers Road property. Mr. Dickinson responded by commenting a nonpublic meeting was held with BOS previous week and the HCC was told when a decision is made the BOS will contact them. Mr. Drouin asked why the HCC does not have a boat or an ATV. Mr. Dickinson noted he was told that a craft might be available, but he has never taken advantage of it. Mr. Drouin asked if those HCC members with expiring membership would be renewing or opening their positions to new members. Mr. Drouin clarified that he would like to make Mrs. Parkhurst a voting member as soon as possible for all the work and effort she contributes to the commission. Mr. Dickinson outlined that when an opening is available the BOS should be notified of any current alternate that would like a voting seat on the commission. Since the RSA does not specify the number of alternates which can be seated on a conservation commission how come the HCC cannot have an unlimited number of alternates. Mr. Dickinson noted a single alternate opening is available on the Town of Hudson website.

Mrs. Parkhurst commented she would be holding another guided hike on October 27th 10:00 AM EST. They will be hiking the Triangle Trail at Robinson Pond boat launch. An email will be sent to remind the commission and possibly the community calendar.

V. Non-Public Session:

RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. The commission may also go into non-public session for any other subject matter permitted pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 (II)

William Collins made a motion to enter Non-Public session pursuant to the RSA 91-A:3 (II) at 9:23 PM EST.

Roll Call

Ken Dickinson	Randy Brownrigg	Elliott Veloso	William Collins
Chairman <u>X</u>	Vice-Chair <u>X</u>	Secretary <u>E</u>	Member <u>X</u>

Michael Tsu	Michael Drouin	Brett Gagnon	Paula Hubert
--------------------	-----------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Member X Member X Member X Alternate E
Jennifer Parkhurst David Morin Elvis Dhima
Alternate X Select. Rep. E Town Staff E

Brett Gagnon made a motion to exit non-public session at 10:06 PM EST.

Motion by: Brett Gagnon
Seconded by: Randy Brownrigg

Roll Call

Ken Dickinson Chairman <u> X </u>	Randy Brownrigg Vice-Chair <u> X </u>	Elliott Veloso Secretary <u> E </u>	William Collins Member <u> X </u>
Michael Tsu Member <u> X </u>	Michael Drouin Member <u> X </u>	Brett Gagnon Member <u> X </u>	Paula Hubert Alternate <u> E </u>
Jennifer Parkhurst Alternate <u> X </u>	David Morin Select. Rep. <u> E </u>	Elvis Dhima Town Staff <u> E </u>	

Brett Gagnon made a motion to seal the non-public session notes at 10:07 PM EST.

Motion by: Brett Gagnon
Seconded by: Jennifer Parkhurst

A motion was made to adjourn:

Motion by: Brett Gagnon
Seconded by: Jennifer Parkhurst

Vote: For: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Meeting Adjourned at 10:08 P.M.

William Collins, Secretary (Pro tempore)