



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Conservation Commission



Ken Dickinson, Chairman      Dave Morin, Selectmen Liaison

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**DATE: January 8, 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 regular meeting of the Hudson Conservation Commission (HCC) was held in the Board of Selectmen Conference Room of Town Hall.

In attendance = X    Alternates Seated = S    Partial Attendance = P    Excused Absence = E

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

Called to Order at 07:12 p.m. by Chairman Ken Dickinson

The Chairman seated alternate Brett Gagnon as the seventh member for tonight's meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the newest appointed HCC member Michael Drouin to the commission.

**Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items:**

None

**I. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**A: Eversource 326 Line Structure Replacement Project.**

Mr. Kristopher Wilkes from VHB and Mr. Matthew Cardin from Eversource Energy appeared before the commission seeking the chairman's signature on a Wetlands Permit Application for work to take place along the companies 326 Power Line ROW. They explained that field surveys along the 326 corridor revealed damaged and decaying wooden poles that are now in need of replacement. Mr. Wilkes described the process that will be taken to ensure a negligible impact to the environment near and around the structures and added that all wetland impacts would be temporary with full restoration to occur at the conclusions of the project. Seeing as this item was not on the agenda the commission member's present felt ill prepared to make a motion to authorize the chairman to sign the application. Commission members present elected to hold a site walk for informational purposes and will meet at David Drive (Site 34) on February 10, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Continuance of discussion on this matter was deferred to the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

**B: Presentation by Town of Pelham Conservation Commission Chairman Paul Gagnon.**

Mr. Gagnon, Chairman of the Pelham Conservation Commission appeared before the HCC and gave an outstanding presentation on the process used by the Pelham Conservation Commission when considering land for possible conservation purchase. He talked through the strategy used in the development of the current Pelham Open Space Plan and the long term goals of connecting land parcels to create large tracks of land for the public to enjoy. Some of the more notable points during his presentation were:

The PCC believe that outright purchase of property was more desirable than conservation easements.

Land purchase for conservation helps control growth in town which in turn controls taxes in town.

Large tracks of open space promote recreational activities that people find desirable when deciding on a community to live in.

One other item that Mr. Gagnon touched upon was the formation of a Forest Committee in Pelham. He pointed out that the committee's role was vital in managing the land acquired by the town of Pelham and encouraged the Hudson commission to consider forming a similar committee to help with land management in town.

### III. OTHER BUSINESS

#### A: Election of Officers

The following individuals were nominated to serve as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the HCC for 2018 calendar year.

**A motion was made to nominate Ken Dickinson for the position of Chairman of the Hudson Conservation Commission for the 2018 calendar year.**

**Motion by:** Michael Tsu  
**Seconded by:** Randy Brownrigg

**Vote:** For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

**A motion was made to nominate Randy Brownrigg for the position of Vice Chairman of the Hudson Conservation Commission for the 2018 calendar year.**

**Motion by:** William Collins  
**Seconded by:** Brett Gagnon

**Vote:** For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

**A motion was made to nominate Elliot Veloso for the position of Secretary of the Hudson Conservation Commission for the 2018 calendar year.**

**Motion by:** William Collins  
**Seconded by:** Michael Tsu

**Vote:** For: 6 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

**B: Open Space Subcommittee Discussion and Appointments**

Mr. Collins made mention that the commission voted on approving the formation of an Open Space subcommittee at the December meeting and that further discussion on the matter was not warranted at this time. He suggested that the Chairman could appoint volunteers to serve on the committee tonight. The Chairman agreed and asked for volunteers, Randy Brownrigg and Brett Gagnon both expressed an interest in serving on the subcommittee and so were appointed. The Chairman also expressed his interest and will also serve as a member of the subcommittee.

**IV. FINANCIAL STATUS**

No outstanding issues noted with the current financial report.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman reviewed the correspondences provide by staff for tonight’s meeting. The correspondences included:

A news letter from NHDES regarding the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund. NHDES in partnership with NH Dept. of Transportation will be hosting a workshop covering the 2018 grant cycle and other topics.

A letter from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests seeking donations for 2018. Motion to defer this matter to the February meeting.

Motion by: Michael Tsu  
Seconded by: Brett Gagnon

Vote: For: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Conservation Commission meeting minutes for December were submitted for acceptance.

**Motion made to accept December 11, 2017 Conservation Commission meeting minutes.**

Motion by: Brett Gagnon  
Seconded by: Randy Brownrigg

Vote: For: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

**VII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Selectman Morin asked the Chairman to provide him with costs and information on the power equipment the HCC would like to purchase to aide in trail maintenance. He stated it would be handy to have this information available in case there were questions during the town deliberative session happening February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion to adjourn:**

Motion by: William Collins  
Seconded by: Randy Brownrigg

Vote: For: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

  
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William Collins, Secretary

