



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission



Jim Battis, Chairman

Nancy Brucker, Selectmen Liaison

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DATE: 9 June 2014

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 Community Development Conference Room of Town Hall.

Members of the Commission present: J Battis, R Brownrigg, K Dickinson, P Dubay, R Jurewicz

Members of the Commission excused: None

Members of the Commission absent: None

Member of Town Staff present: None, excused

Board of Selectman Representative: N Brucker

Seating of Alternates: None

Called to Order at 7:04 pm.

I. PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

II. OLD BUSINESS

None

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. New England Cottontail Initiative

Ted Kendziora, Wildlife Biologist U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Concord, NH

Mr Kendziora discussed an initiative to maintain habitat for the New England Cottontail Rabbit range wide and to attempt to keep the rabbit off the Endangered Species List. One of the existing ranges includes the Hudson-Pelham area. The New England Cottontail prefers brushy areas. With the decline in agriculture yielding to urban/suburban development in the area has reduced the desirable habitat. Many unmanaged tracts have become mature forests stands. The Initiative attempts to assist local organizations and private land owners to manage appropriate land in a manner to encourage development of habitat for the New England Cottontail. The project has assisted in improving habitat on Pelham Conservation Land, including Gumpus Pond that abuts the Musquash Conservation Area in Hudson. We would now like to look at the potential development of habitat on Hudson Conservation Land. He then introduced Mr Anthony Holzhauser to discuss a proposed project.

Anthony Holzhauser
16A Bockes Road
Troop 20

Mr Holzhauser discussed a proposed Eagle Scout project to assist The US Fish and Wildlife Service to survey conservation land in Hudson to evaluate appropriate areas for the development of new growth forest. The primary goal would be to diversify wildlife throughout Hudson.

Mr Dickinson asked what the assessment time frame would be. Mr Kendziora stated that the assessment, if approved would be conducted over the summer. Some discussion ensued about appropriate areas in the Town Forest. Mr. Kendziora noted that the goal of the project is to work with the land owners to improve the sites and can assist trail projects.

Mr Brownrigg asked why other areas could not be considered. Mrs Dubay stated that she had discussed the Conservation areas with Mr Kendziora. Mr Kendziora mentioned that he was first looking at town owned properties but could expand out as interest from other owners might develop. Mr Kendziora went on to discuss the details of management and potential logging operations.

It was clarified that what is requested is permission from the Town to conduct a preliminary assessment of two Conservation parcels, the Town Forest and the Musquash Conservation Area.

Motion to authorize a preliminary site study on the Hudson Conservation Lands for habitat development under the New England Cottontail Rabbit Initiative.

Motion by: R. Brownrigg
Second by: K. Dickinson

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Mr Battis noted that Mrs Dubay is already working on this project and suggested that she be the Commission's liaison for this project.

B. Request for a site walk
39 Pinewood Road

Mr. Battis noted that this item was placed on the agenda by the Town Engineer but as she is excused tonight, she cannot speak to the issue. He further noted as the letter is a notice of violation of the Wetland Conservation District Ordinance, it is in the hands of the Zoning Administrator and until an application is submitted we have no role in the enforcement process. Seeing no objections, the item was tabled until an application comes forward.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Stewardship of Conserved Lands

Mr. Battis noted that the Board of Selectmen approved the Turkey Trot Trail name for a new trail in the Musquash Conservation Land. Also, that Mr Alio has been working on a new trail in the northern section of that land. The trail requires three bridges costing about \$519 but, as he cannot complete them before 30 June he will come in at a later time to request the funding. Finally, he noted that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission has instituted a Trails Interest Group and they are interested contacting people who are knowledgeable about trails in the area and might have GIS trail data.

Mr. Battis also noted that he had observed illegal dumping at the Town Forest on the previous Sunday. He expressed his concern over potential dumping issues and recommended the Commission reconsider its position to leave the gate open. Mr Dickinson stated that he had also observed the dumping Mr Battis referenced and that he had seen other dumping in the Town Forest.

Motion to request the Town Forest Gate be locked.

Motion by: K. Dickinson

Second by: R Brownrigg

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Mr Dickinson proposed trail work in the Town Forest on 14 and 28th of June to complete the trail signs and kiosk. The start time was proposed to be 8:00 am and extended as long as people are available.

Mr Battis noted that the New Hampshire Lakes Association has submitted an invoice to the Town for the 2014 Lake Host Program for \$2,700 for salary and benefits. This has been a standing item in our budget and is therefore in the default budget.

Motion to pay the Invoice for Lake Host Support in the Amount of \$2,700 to New Hampshire Lakes Association.

Motion by: K. Dickinson

Second by: R Brownrigg

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

V. Financial Status

A review of the financial statement showed the only activity for the month was interest earned on the Conservation Fund.

VI. Correspondence

Several items were included in the package that were advisory letters or notices of violation from the Zoning Administrator and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

VII. Commissioner's Comments

Mrs Brucker stated it was nice to hear about the habitat improvement project and the trail work. Mr Jurewicz welcomed Mrs Brucker back to the meetings. Mr Dickinson maintains his enthusiasm for trail projects. Mr Brownrigg echoed Mrs Brucker's interest in the New England Cottontail Initiative. Mr. Battis restated the information and contacts for the NRPC Trail Interest Group and noted that the Commission had openings for full or alternate members.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: K Dickinson

Seconded: R. Brownrigg

Vote: For 4 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:56 pm.


James Battis, Chairman