



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission



Jim Battis, Chairman

Nancy Brucker, Selectmen Liaison

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DATE: 11 March 2013

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, T Boland, K Dickinson, P Dubay, P Nappo

Members of the Commission absent: None

Member of Town Staff present: P. Colburn

Board of Selectman Representative present: Excused

Seating of Alternates: None

Called to Order at 7:05 pm

I. PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS :

None

II. OLD BUSINESS:

None

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Dylan Quinn - Eagle Scout project: Upgrading kiosk at Musquash

- D Quinn: I live on Roosevelt Avenue and am a member of Troop 20, Boy Scouts of America. My plan is to upgrade the Musquash kiosk with a three sided structure, building a new roof, reframing and staining. We want to make the kiosk more noticeable and to provide adequate space for information. I will handle the funding through fundraising events. We are trying to make the kiosk more like the one at Benson's Park.
- J Battis: We have had problems with Plexiglas covers in the past? Do you have any plans for this?
- D Quinn: We want to provide space for expansion of the Plexiglas so it does not crack.
- J Undercofler: (Assistant Scout Master) The present design has the Plexiglas bolted directly on the frame. We will use a shadow box frame like that at Benson's Park so it can expand.
- P. Dubay: Will we have the ability to get into the shadow box?
- D Quinn: We will hinge the kiosk to provide access.
- J Battis: Will you be using the existing footings?
- D Quinn: We do not want to change it that much but the existing footings are loose.
- J Undercofler: We will update the structure. It will be identical to Benson's Park.
- K Dickinson: Can we clean up the grade around it and remove the boulder in front of the kiosk? Just a suggestion.
- P Dubay: Do you want to mention the history.
- D Quinn: The existing kiosk is an Eagle project. However, it is aged and little can be saved from it.
- J Undercofler: He will need approval from you to go forward with this project.

Motion to approve the Dylan Quinn Eagle project to remodel the Musquash kiosk.

Motion by: T Boland

Second by K. Dickinson

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- J Battis: We look forward to seeing the update and appreciate your efforts.
- P Dubay: Dylan, do you have a time line?
- D Quinn: I would like to be done by June or July.
- K Dickinson: We need to work hard to prepare stuff for the kiosk.

B. Election of Officers

- J Battis: We have three positions to fill, the Chair, Vice Chair, and the Secretary. Historically, Tim Quinn has been our Secretary for the past year but before that, the task fell to the Chair. I have been doing it since Tim's retirement. I will leave it to the Commission as to filling the position or not.
- T Boland: I will volunteer to take that on.
- J Battis: Hearing no other nominations we have a vote:

Motion to elect Tim Boland as Secretary

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- J Battis: Nominations for Vice Chairman?
- K Dickinson: Nominates P Dubay
- P Dubay: Nominates K Dickinson.
- J Battis: I am considering staying on the Conservation Commission beyond my term which ends in December. It might be good to have a new Chair this year so I can help the Chair adjust. Does that have any effect on the race?
- P Dubay: Having been on the Conservation Commission for three years, I am not ready to step up to Chairmen.
- K Dickinson: I had not thought about it before but I really don't want to make a decision tonight so I can consider possible schedule issues.
- J Battis: Perhaps we should do chairman first.
- P Dubay: Nominates Jim Battis.
- J Battis: Any other nominations for Chairman? Seeing none, we will have a vote:

Motion to elect James Battis as Chairman

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- J Battis: We have two nominees for Vice Chairman, P. Dubay and K. Dickinson.
- K Dickinson: It makes sense to keep the status quo until later in the year.

Motion to elect Pat Dubay as Vice Chairman

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Stewardship of Conserved Lands

- K Dickinson: A group is looking at approximately 12 locations for trail signs at Musquash.
- J Undercofler: 137 Musquash Road. Three of us did a site walk to identify signs to keep walkers on the Hamblett-Nash trail. Approximate cost of \$25/sign. These would be similar to those on the meeting house trail. Ken has done a lot of research on the history of the property that can be used on the kiosk. We have also done some cleanup work. Also the NRPC is making up a map for us.
- K. Dickinson: We should see the final map at full scale to assure the legibility.
- J Undercofler: The final map will be 2 x 3 ft to fit in the kiosk.
- J Battis: At one time, there was an idea for some of the signs to have maps on them.
- J Undercofler: At this point we are only talking about routed signs such as on the Meetinghouse trail. They would not have maps.
- K Dickinson: Does the trail map include distances and topography? In general the map looks good. There is also a missing trail.
- J Undercofler: That is a good idea. As to the trail, some of the property drifts into Pelham and there is some question what is Hudson and Pelham property. This map will be version one and updates will evolve.

- J Battis: When you were out are there any signs of ATV traffic?
- J Undercofler: Yes
- J Battis: As most people are aware, the grant that funded the purchase of the land prohibits ATV use on the property. At the present time the land is unmarked. I was going to suggest that we authorize the expenditure for signs.
- K Dickinson: I would try to limit the signage.
- J Battis: At the next meeting I will come forward with a motion to authorize expenditure for signs. On the table we have a contract from Aquatic Control Technologies, Inc. for herbicide treatment of Robinson Pond early this spring. We have discussed the funding at our last meeting with Kathy Carpentier. The BoS has accepted a state grant to fund 40% of the \$28,500 cost. I would accept a motion to approve the contract for the herbicide treatment with funding following Kathy Carpentier's suggestions as provided at the last meeting. This includes about \$12,000 from our present budget with support from the Pond Reclamation Capital Reserve and Donation Accounts and approximately \$9,800 from the Conservation Fund.

Motion to approve the Aquatic Control Technologies, Inc. Contract using the funding scheme presented by K. Carpentier at our February Meeting.

Motion by: T Boland

Second by K. Dickinson

Discussion:

- K Dickinson: Is the contract consistent with our previous discussions?
- J Battis: The contract appears to be consistent with our previous discussions.
- P Nappo: Do you know if the BoS has had any progress with the State on assisting us in paying for this effort? I know they spoke at the last meeting to representatives of the State.
- J Battis: It is really a timing issue as the Town is on a Fiscal Year and the State grant is on a Calendar year. This fiscal year, because of the way we did budgeting, we have to pay the full amount but will not be refunded until next fiscal year. There is actually a solution that does not involve the State but it involves the way we budget. We should have budgeted the revenue from the State rebate. We now know how to do it so this will not be a problem in future years. In this case, the issue was in the Town budget. I think we have solved that issue.

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- J Battis: Another item which could be considered Stewardship is Article 16 "Property Lot Line Adjustment Map 253, Lot 66 & 67 (5 Schaefer Circle) before the Town Meeting. I bring it up as it involves conservation land. The owners of 5 Schaefer Circle, through no fault of their own, discovered that their property was constructed straddling the property lines of lot 66 and 67. Lot 66 is Town owned land including a large wetland and has been part of our conservation land inventory. This article proposes a lot line adjustment to remove the issue and seems reasonable and appropriate. It is recommended by the Board of Selectmen.
- K Dickinson: I did have a quick conversation with Dan Cyr of Bay State Forestry.

- J Battis: Dan Cyr is the forester who did the Forestry Management Plan for the Town Forest and we are thinking about having it updated.
- K Dickinson: It will cost to update the forestry plan but it should be recoverable from timber sale. One town paid about \$1,000 for a forestry plan based on a quick web search. It behooves us as a Commission to understand the land before we proceed. They will be using the latest technologies. It would be good to look at the land before we proceed. I suggest we do a walk two weeks from now.

B. Sitewalk at Town Forest scheduled for 9 AM on 24 March

- P. Nappo: Is the Town Forest the Ingersoll Forest?
- J Battis: No. I will send you a map.
- K Dickinson: You will need boots as it tends to be wet.
- J Battis: Valerie Loran of the State Fish and Game will be doing a Blanding's turtle survey at the town forest. Blanding's turtles are a state endangered species. I have also suggested she might look at Musquash.

C. Circumferential Highway Impact

- J Battis: For background, we have been asked by Selectman Maddox to consider the possible construction of a two lane road along the existing Circumferential Highway Corridor and to provide the Planning Board with information on any areas we consider sensitive. I suggest delaying our next site walk until April.
- K Dickinson: I concur.

V. FINANCIAL STATUS:

- J Battis: At the present time we are over halfway through the fiscal year and have a balance of \$18,215.59 and have used 48.89% of our budget. We actual gained \$18.78 in interest last month.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE:

- J Battis: I don't see any.
- P Colburn: We do have a letter from CLD regarding the Library Park project.
- K Dickinson: This has been underway for some time. Is this extra work?
- P Colburn: They are getting ready to submit their engineering study and this is part of a congestion/air quality CMAC improvement project and this is part of a set criteria that they need to follow. This is just protocol.
- J Battis: Shall we have a negative response?

Motion to respond in the negative to both questions raised in the CLD letter regarding the Library Park Intersection Improvement Project.

Motion by: T Boland

Second by P Dubay

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- J Battis: I was informed today that we have been invited to attend the 4 April BoS

Workshop to improve communications between the Board and Commission.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve February 2013 minutes with noted corrections.

Motion by: K Dickinson

Seconded by P Dubay

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstained 0

VIII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

- P Nappo: I am learning about the workings of the Conservation Commission and gaining experience and appreciate it.
- T. Boland: Welcome Pat aboard.
- P. Dubay: Also, welcome.
- K Dickinson: I look forward to sustaining the moment. The Town Forest could also use a kiosk and trail work.
- J Battis: Welcome to Pat. The commission has seven full position and three alternate positions. We welcome applications to the Board of Selectmen from any citizens who wish to participate.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion by: P Dubay

Seconded by: T Boland

Vote: For 5 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 pm.

James Battis, Chairman