



TOWN OF HUDSON Conservation Commission



Jim Battis, Chairman Nancy Brucker, Selectmen Liaison

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DATE: 11 February 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 Dubai

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 7:06 pm

I. PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

II. OLD BUSINESS

None

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

Motion to Defer until Next Meeting

Motion by K Dickinson

Second by T Boland

Vote: For 4 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Grant Agreement for Exotic Species Program (Ottarnic & Robinson Pond).
- J Battis: DES Grant for Exotic Species control accepted by the BOS with 40% funding by the state DES.

B. Pond Reclamation

- J Battis: Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director was recognized to discuss financial expenses related to reclamation funding
- K Carpentier: Reviewed the funds available to the Conservation Commission including:

Conservation Commission Fund	\$793,127.18
Conservation Land Capital Reserve Fund	544,881.93 (1)
Pond Reclamation Capital Reserve Fund	10,189.37 (2)
Donations:	
Conservation Commission	1,446.31
Hudson Ponds	3,050.00
Robinson Pond	750.00
Ottarnic Pond	1,191.82
FY 13 ConCom Operating Budget (Balance)	18,235.59 (3)
FY 14 ConCom Operating Budget	36,926.00 (4)

Total Funds Available from All Sources \$1,409,798.20

Notes:

- (1) Town vote required to expend
- (2) BOS are agents to expend
- (3) Includes \$14K budgeted General Funds Revenue
- (4) Includes No Budgeted Revenue

The discussion is based on the assumption of herbicide treatments for Robinson Pond in FY13 and FY14 and Ottarnic Pond in FY15 and FY16 with associated DASH operations. Because the Conservation Commission did not follow the usual practice of gross budgeting, the cost of pond reclamation of \$44,500 in FY13 will result in a \$9,800 shortfall but in FY14, if the DES rebate is returned to the Conservation Fund, there will be no shortfall. This shortfall could be paid from the Conservation Fund. In FY15 we will be back on track if gross budgeting is used and the revenues are projected.

- J Battis: I do accept responsibility for the faulty budgeting however, at the time that our budgets were required to be provided to the town we did not know what the state was going to recommend. I feel that a \$10,000 one time draw on the Conservation Fund is not a significant issue.
- T Boland: I agree. We have addressed the problem that we were working on a calendar year and not a fiscal year. We knew we were going to get into this problem somewhere. It is easier to deal with it now than later.
- K Dickinson: It is a onetime withdrawal of the \$9800 and I don't see anything wrong with that.
- K Carpentier: We can now go back to the BOS with an answer.
- K Dickinson: We do need to oversee the herbicide operations to insure we

- spend the funds wisely.
- P Dubay: The one time use of the funds will have long term benefits.

Motion to Recommend Approval for List of Funding Sources in FY13 for Pond Reclamation as provided by Kathy Carpentier, including \$9800 from the Conservation Fund.

Motion by K Dickinson

Second by T Boland

Vote: For 4 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

- K Carpentier: I suggest that in June we touch base again to check our status and again in August to plan for the budget for next year.

C. Stewardship of Conserved Lands

- K. Dickinson: I have taken a site walk in the Town forest. The forestry plan for the Town Forest was done in 1993 and is outdated. There is probably limited timber harvest potential and the perimeter trail was not completed as indicated in the plan. There are several tasks such as completing the trail, paint a sign and do a kiosk with a trail map. It looks like it makes sense to contact Bay State Forestry to do the update and to see if the application is registered with the Tree Farm program. At Musquash, there is a scout who is defining a project for the kiosk at this time. A group is looking at approximately 12 locations for trail signs.
- P Dubay: I just wanted to clarify that we do not have anyone planning to do kiosk at the Town Forest at the present time.
- J Battis: It probably would be good to do a site walk at the Town Forest in late March or early April.

D. Circumferential Highway Impact

- J Battis: Due to weather we will have suspended our site walks for this effort until late March or early April also.

V. FINANCIAL STATUS:

- A. J Battis: Our only action last month was the collection of interest on the Conservation fund with no expenditures.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. J Battis: We did receive correspondence from the Town Administrator on the NH DOT intent to install rumble strips on Rte 111. As it is in the paved area, I don't think it is any issue for us. I should also note that in doing the Wetland Special Exception Motion Sheet the model provided me did not actually cover the "standard stipulations" as I remember them. As I recall, one that was missing was the stipulation that erosion control devices be installed during construction to the approval of the Town Engineer. Another might have been the marking of the Conservation District with metal plaques.
- K Dickenson: For single family home lots the last might be too much. When we did our Prime Wetlands Study we did request permission from owners thanks to the recommendation of the Town's Attorney. I would like to review my notes.
 - J Battis: I will send out my wording for review.

- P Dubay: What about the statement about review if the plans change.
- J Battis: I have reworded that clause but I do not see it as a stipulation.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Motion to approve January 2014 minutes with noted corrections.

Motion by: K Dickinson

Seconded by T Boland

Vote: For 4 Opposed 0 Abstained 0

VIII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS:

- A. J Battis: Just before the last meeting I received an email from Nancy Lamaureux that she was resigning for personal reasons. This reduces the Commission to the four members present. I wish to thank her for her years of service.
- B. K Dickinson: Happy to see continuing activity on Musquash. I look forward to working on the Town Forest as well as helping the Musquash group.
- C. J Battis: The commission has seven full position and three alternate positions. Following the December meeting there were five active members and no alternates. We welcome applications to the Board of Selectmen from any citizens who wish to participate.

IV. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion by: P Dubay

Seconded by T Boland

Vote: For 4 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

James Battis, Chairman