



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Conservation Commission



William Collins, Chairman      Dave Morin, Selectmen Liaison

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**DATE: April 11, 2022**

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.

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

William Collins Chairman <u>  X  </u>	Ken Dickinson Vice-Chair <u>  X  </u>	Bill Kallgren Member <u>  X  </u>	Brian Pinsonneault Member <u>  X  </u>
Sandra Rumbaugh Member <u>  X  </u>	Carl Murphy Alternate <u>  X  </u>	David Morin Selectman Rep <u>  X  </u>	Elvis Dhima Town Rep <u>  X  </u>

- I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT 07:01 P.M.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. SEATING OF ALTERNATES: None seated
- V. Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items: None

### VI. Old Business –

- A. Conditional Use Permit for 6 Executive Dr. Granite State Subaru; Map 210-Lot 001-000

Chairman Collins recognized Mr. Doug MacGuire, The Dubay Group to update the commission on the development project.

Mr. MacGuire updated the Commission on updates and changes to the project based on the feedback from site walk previously conducted. In addition, Mr. MacGuire reviewed the existing site conditions, including invasive species, reiterated plans to match the frontage on Lowell Rd. to match conditions at the dealership for continuation of aesthetics. The developer has added approximately 70 additional plantings to be added to the improvements for further mitigation purposes as well as improved visuals. The developer provided a planting layout along with detailed information on the specific species proposed.

Mr. Kallgren inquired if, during the review of the site walk input, the team had considered removing some of the display parking areas as further reduction of wetland impact. Mr. MacGuire indicated that it had been investigated; however, the developer is proposing the improved plantings to offset the concerns and allow elimination of the areas of high invasive species.

Mr. Dhima brought forth discussions if the wetland were artificially created during prior development to which the Mr. MacGuire indicated that this was likely based on prior input of their wetlands specialist. Mr. MacGuire further discussed the advantages of the additional plantings proposed in this area for mitigation.

Mr. MacGuire further reiterated that the parking area would be used for new cars that would not be expected to have same concerns as a facility storing older cars. Older cars would be more likely to have leaks.

Ms. Rumbaugh inquired to Mr. Dhima, if there were a change in use of the parking lot, for example a used car dealer, would there be a check and balance for this change. Mr. Dhima responded that there is no check and balance, a parking lot is a parking lot and would not be further regulated. This would only change if there were a significant change, such as adding a building. Ms. Rumbaugh further inquired if the current design met the requirements of a parking lot, to which Mr. Dhima responded – no it does not have a filtration system that would normally be expected with additional clarification on curbing and filtration requirements.

Mr. Collins provided additional explanation and description that the parking lot design would not be compliant and should the commission make a recommendation to the Planning Board regarding the project that a stipulation be added to address this.

Additional extensive discussions were held regarding sheet run-off of the parking area into the wetland buffer. The relative lack of slope on the parking area and high water table would restrict implementation of a retention basin and may likely result in standing water. These discussions included relative merits of a stone-based trench system or grass around the perimeter of the parking area for first flush of contaminants prior to flow into the wetland. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Dhima opined for this situation either strategy would work well.

Mr. Dickinson was happy with the new plantings proposed as adding a level of mitigation. He

recommended re-arranging some of the proposed planting to further distribute them to optimize filtration capability, to which the developer was agreeable.

Mr. Collins inquired if the developer would be open to a 20' wide driveway instead of 22'. Mr. MacGuire was open to the suggestion, but had safety concerns for anything narrower which would result in safety issues.

Mr. Pinsonneault was appreciative of the new plantings as a mitigation.

Mr. Kallgren made a motion to move the project to the planning board with discussed recommendations, seconded by Mr. Pinsonneault.

Motion carried 5-0-0

**B. Dash Harvesting at Robinson and Ottarnic Ponds.**

Mr. Collins recognized Ms. Amy Smagula NHDES to provide an update on Invasive species control projects by NHDES.

Ms. Smagula presented a number of tables and charts detailing statewide view of invasive species in various water bodies including 11 rivers and 80 lakes and ponds across the state. Milfoil is identified as the biggest problem and Fanwort second most problematic.

Ms. Smagula noted that Robinson Pond and Ottarnic Pond have both invasive species and noted that Ottarnic additionally has curly leaf pond weed invading. Robinson pond has continued problems around boat launch area as well as eastern side and southern tail of the pond. Ottarnic Pond is shallow and offers optimum growing conditions. Overall the control measures have been trending toward improvements.

Ms. Smagula noted that growing seasons vary, with Milfoil starting early, typically in May time frame, while Fanwort growing when temperatures are warmer with challenges to get a single treatment timed just right. To address this, NHDES is planning two treatments, one early for Milfoil, followed by a second treatment later for Fanwort. This will be supplemented by diving to support the treatments.

Mr. Dickinson inquired regarding comparative costs this year compared to four years ago. Ms. Smagula noted that the costs have generally been trending down as a result of prior year's successes. Ms. Smagula did note that the costs of materials hasn't increased dramatically, however with a split application there would be increase in labor.

Ms. Rumbaugh inquired what things the town might be able to help control further spread. Ms. Smagula noted that continuing with lake host project can help and with larger bodies of water that Lake Associations can be leveraged. Also there is possibility to have diving volunteers for manual removal. Such volunteers would need to go through appropriate training and get a certificate to perform such work.

Mr. Pinsonneault brought forth the discussion to potentially geolocate and mark possible

invasive areas in advance of a planned dive. Ms. Smagula recommended that photograph of the plant be provided with the location in advance as it can be difficult for the layperson to accurately identify the correct species.

Mr. Collins inquired regarding barrier matting being used in some areas. Ms. Smagula clarified that this is similar material like fiberglass staked to the pond bottom, which suppresses growth and eventually kills the plants. Such material can be temporarily installed or permanently; some consideration needs to be given that fishing, boat propellers and natural outgassing of the bottom sediment can result in pulling the barrier out.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Conditional Use Permit for 3 Nathaniel Dr. Garage Addition; Map 242, Lot 028**

Chairman Collins recognized Mr. Chris Michailides, Property Owner, 3 Nathaniel Dr.

Mr. Michailides reviewed the proposal discussed at prior site walk and for those who were not present at the site walk; Mr. Collins provided further descriptions of the wetland itself and existing condition.

Mr. Kallgren suggested that if the side drive were for limited access, it would seem that simple grass could be planted and that a gravel drive would encourage permanent parking capacity within the wetland buffer. Mr. Dhima noted that it would not be practical to enforce a conditional use restricting that area from parking, the system does not have a practical method to enforce that.

Mr. Kallgren noted that the owner should work with the town to find a suitable spot to relocate the in-ground tank, noting that in-ground tank is not allowed in wetland buffer area.

Mr. Collins questions necessity of gravel drive and the applicant suggested that they would like us to consider pavement. Additional discussions were made on relative merits of pavement and gravel. The applicant did request a paved sidewalk to the side of the building, approximately 4' wide for access to the side door. Additional discussions included using permeable materials such as pavers for sidewalk instead of asphalt. Mr. Collins recommended moving displaced vegetation to the sloped area on the side to stabilize the area.

Ms. Rumbaugh made a motion to move the project to the planning board with recommendations, seconded by Mr. Pinsonneault.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

## **VIII. Other Business**

A - Robinson Pond, Watershed Study

Mr. Dhima provided an update on the project that showed a number of areas of opportunity to improve watershed quality. As example, it was noted that the parking area at Robinson Pond as a candidate for improvement noting that slowly and over years, sand would filter into the pond eventually, and over years, resulting in shallower water levels. Next steps will include public outreach activities as well as plans for contaminant monitoring strategies and impacts on nutrient loading.

#### B – Musquash pond “Nesting Box” Replacement

Mr. Pinsonneault provided an evaluation on the status of wood duck nesting boxes on Musquash pond, noting that they are in severe disrepair and should be placed at larger spacing to be more effective. A volunteer has been identified to build the nests and ideal placement time would be in winter when the pond is frozen. Mr. Collins recommended that a list of materials be developed along with associated costs and review at a future meeting.

#### C – Rangers Town Forest Site Visit Review

Mr. Collins provided an update on the site visit with Full Circle Forestry regarding Rangers town forest. The property was walked with identification of various invasive species and potential landing area for tree harvest. Full Circle Forestry provide a valuable insight into the rehabilitation process and possible opportunity to leverage federal funds for the project through a lease arrangement.

Ms. Rumbaugh and Mr. Murphy volunteered to establish a sub-committee with the support of Mr. Dickinson when available to help. First goal will be further research on funding options and lease options. It was noted that the project may be long term allowing time to plan accordingly.

#### D - Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests – Annual Donation.

Mr. Collins provide an overview of the program and suggested that a donation would have advantages for the town and that the town has benefited from this program in the past.

Ms. Rumbaugh made a motion for the minimum donation of \$55. Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion

Motion Carries 5-0-0

#### E - Volunteer – Old Home Days 2022

Discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

## **IX. Financial Status**

Mr. Collins reviewed the current Financial Status, noting monies for encumbered services to be performed in the future.

## **X. Correspondence**

Mr. Collins reviewed correspondence from the power utility that maintenance work was upcoming along the Musquash corridor.

## **XI. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Dickinson made a motion, Seconded by Ms. Rumbaugh, to Approve meeting minutes for March 14, 2022 and March 22, 2022.

Motion carried 5-0-0

## **XII. Commissioner's Comments**

Ms. Rumbaugh noted that the "Pink Moon" would be peaking on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> and recommended a book titled Jane Yolen, which is a story about a father who takes his child owl spotting on a winter night. You have the opportunity to join "Owl Prowl" April 23 4:00Am – 7:00 am sponsored by the NH Audubon Seacoast Chapter whom you can contact for more details. Ms. Rumbaugh's question of the day was Jeepers Creepers what are Spring Peepers? - Boy frogs gone courting and a great opportunity to get children involved outside. Frog-lite.org is a recommended resource for more information.

April 22 is Earth Day and you can celebrate with activities at sponsored by NH Audubon Society on April 23, details available at their website, also visit the Sustainability Committee display case in the lobby at Rogers Memorial Library this month.

Mr. Collins noted that the Kimball Town Forest sub-division project is moving forward between Pelham and Hudson. Project needs legal review, a purchase and sale agreement is in place and will need to go before the Board of Selectmen to move forward.

Ms. Krisciunas introduced herself and is looking forward to being nominated to join the Commission.

### **Motion to adjourn:**

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to adjourn tonight's meeting at 9:38p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Dickinson. Motion Carried 5/0/0

*Bill Kallgren*

William Kallgren, HCC Clerk