



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission



William Collins, Chairman Dave Morin, Selectmen Liaison

12 School Street • Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 • Tel: 603-886-6008 • Fax: 603-816-1291

DATE: June 13, 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>	Linda Krisciunas Alternate <u> X </u>	David Morin Selectman Rep <u> X </u>	Elvis Dhima Town Rep <u> X </u>

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT 07:02 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items: None

I. Old Business –

- A. Conditional Use Permit for Frenette Gardens; 65 Central Street, Map 182, Lot003-000
Mr. Collins recognized Mr. Paul Chisholm of Keach and Nordstrom Associates to provide an update on the application. Mr. Chisholm reported that they had made a slight change to the sewer

tie in based on NHDES input. This was reported as a minor change; additionally the applicant had appeared before the Planning Board and have addressed all town peer review comments. Mr. Chisholm reported that the state has approved and permitted connection to the sewer system.

Ms. Rumbaugh inquired if the applicant had any further consideration if the developer would be willing to set aside a conservation easement. Mr. Collins commented that this could not be a requirement, and would have to be voluntarily the developer. Mr. Chisholm advised that the client was review the legal technicalities but did not have all the answers to comment further on this topic.

Mr. Collins brought up concerns about possible washout near the sewer connection in event of excessive rain, with a recommendation for the developer to add additional erosion control measures. After some additional discussions, another area was also identified for additional erosion controls.

7:10 Mr. Collins seated Ms. Krisciunas

Mr. Dickinson made a motion to recommend the project based on site walk and on plans dated June 6, 2022. Motion was seconded by Mr. Pinsonneault.

Motion Passed 4-1-0

Ms. Rumbaugh noted that she felt that this project would put too much stress on the watershed feeding First Brook and was her concern regarding approving this project.

II. New Business

None

III. Other Business

- a. Presentation by Lauren Zielinski – NH Water Resources Program Manager, Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWC) - Mr. Collins welcomed Ms. Zielinski to introduced MRWC as a non-profit focused on the Merrimack River from Franklin NH into MA with focus on making the Merrimack River cleaner, healthier and more accessible. The organization was founded 1976, when the river was one of the ten most polluted rivers in the country.

Ms. Zielinski noted that the organization focuses on water quality management, climate and watershed planning as well as ecological restoration activities, noting that funding for many of these projects can be accessed through a number of national funding sources.

Some recent projects included tree planting with Shaker Road School in Concord with a goal to plant 9000 trees over a three-year period. Other impactful activities include replacement of undersized culverts, whereby the small culvert accelerates erosion on the downstream side, such that fish cannot readily pass through the culvert. Mr. Zielinski noted that a culvert replacement can cost \$100K or more and that there were approximately 20,000 in NH that

need to be replaced.

Mr. Dhima inquired on question on how to apply for grants to help replace culverts. Ms. Zielinski provided additional insight into the different types of grants and that in some cases, the town can provide in-kind contributions by way of labor and equipment; additionally funding is available for both private and public land projects. Ms. Zielinski would welcome any inquiries from private landowners to help move these projects forward.

Mr. Morin inquired if there were funds to help develop a boat ramp to the river, which unfortunately would fall outside the scope of what would be typically funded.

Additional discussions were had regarding specific sites in town and possible projects, with a take away for the commission to review new projects and identify specific priorities in town.

b. Land Access Agreement with the Town of Pelham

Discussions continued from prior meeting regarding land access for Pelham though Hudson Town forest from Kimball Hill Road. Mr. Collins noted that Mr. Gagnon from the Pelham Conservation Commission wanted to have a formal agreement in place. Mr. Dhima reported that he had worked with the town's attorney with two options to consider. Option A – It is public access, no particular agreement is necessary. Option B – A legal agreement could be put in place.

A number of points were discussed regarding costs associated with legal agreement as well as concerns on remediation if Pelham were to perform a harvest resulting in damages to Hudson land. It was noted that a likely scenario would be a coordination of activities on any particular project and to address concerns of damages, Mr. Dhima noted that a bond could be incorporated into a statement of work.

c. Rangers Town Forest Subcommittee Update:

The sub-committee provided update that they have had additional contact with Eric Radlof at Full Circle Forestry regarding Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which would be five to ten year projects through US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCU).

The sub-committee has prioritized activities to

- a. Invasive removal
- b. Forest Stand improvement harvesting low value forest products
- c. Brush management control of invasive plants
- d. Habitat Development and Management
- e. Forest Trails and erosion control of main skid trails.

The sub-committee is proposing a scheduled clean-up day for the fall of 2022, as well as recommending installation of two Kiosks at cul-de-sacs to discourage future dumping. The sub-committee is working on expanding the group to include community members and increasing social media presence.

d. Wood Duck Nesting Box Project Update

Mr. Pinsonneault reported that costs of lumber for nesting boxes is increasing. He was able to investigate directly the condition of existing boxes, noting that one had active Wood Duck nesting and Red Wing Blackbirds additionally were utilizing two. Two boxes in poor condition were removed; however, Mr. Pinsonneault was unable to remove the poles. The conditions will be further investigated after nesting season. Regarding costs, Mr. Pinsonneault has reached out to several organization, such as Ducks Unlimited and noted that a single cedar board 1” x 10” x 18’ is running about \$175 and there is possibility to purchase boxes at \$84 each on eBay.

Mr. Dickinson noted that he might have some contacts to assist in sourcing cedar.

Discussions were tabled until next meeting, as installation of the new boxes would be scheduled over winter allowing work on ice.

e. Hudson Conservation Logo Contest

Mr. Collins provided an overview on Hudson Conservation Commission Logo Contest Proposal drafted by Brenda Collins. The overview includes outreach to the community to bring more awareness to the commission’s activities and purposes for protecting our natural resources. Additionally, the proposal includes eligibility and rules along with logo specifications. It is planned to run the contest starting at Old Home Days into October.

Ms. Krisciunas offered to reach out to school art departments to help generate interest in the project.

f. Trail Work Day June 18th, 2022 Kimball Hill Town Forest

Work was scheduled for June 18th starting at 9:00 am until 11:00am for trail blazing activities and several trees were identified on Deacon Merrill trail that needed clearing as well.

IV. Financial Status

Current financial status shows a balance of \$748K USD with new funding to kick in July 1, 2022.

V. Correspondence

Review of Volunteer Lake Assessment Program reports were reviewed, noting worsening conditions in transparency and pH at Robinson pond. Conductivity was stable at Robinson Pond. All measurements were stable at Otternic Pond.

Note that Robinson pond is currently closed for swimming at Robinson pond. Kayaking is OK but the commission would not recommend consumption of fish. Otternic Pond is safe for activities.

Review of Land Conservation Investment Program Field Visit Report – the report from field

visit may 2, 2022 was reviewed with some recommendations on resources for dealing with invasive species, including getting rid of Japanese Knotwood, as well as check boundaries periodically.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Rumbaugh made a motion to accept meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Pinsonneault.

Motion carried 4-0-1

VII. Commissioner's Comments

Mr. Pinsonneault commented that the presentation provided earlier in the meeting was very informative.

Ms. Rumbaugh updated the commission that the Full Moon for June will peak the following evening (June 16th) and is named the Strawberry Moon, along with a grand alignment of five visible planets on June 22. Additionally, Ms. Rumbaugh encouraged ways of playing "Nature Bingo" as a way to explore the outdoors and keeping kids busy during the summer. Finally hiking the Belknap Range west of Winnepesaukee includes 12 mountains and you can earn a "Belknap Range Hiker" patch when all are completed. Mount Major is recommended to start at 1.5 miles and 1300 feet elevation change.

Motion to adjourn:

Mr. Dickinson moved to adjourn tonight's meeting at 9:00p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Pinsonneault.

Motion Carried 5/0/0

Bill Kallgren

William Kallgren, HCC Clerk