



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Conservation Commission



William Collins, Chairman      Dave Morin, Selectmen Liaison

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**DATE: July 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>	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 07:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items: None

- I. Old Business** – None
- II. New Business** – None
- III. Other Business**

A - Land Access Hudson Town Forest – Proposed abutter access.

Mr. Collins reviewed document titled “Access Concerns and Abutter Notifications for the Town of Hudson Forested and Conserved Lands” included in the meeting packet. General discussions were held regarding the three parcels, Rangers Town Forest, Colburn Town Forest and Hudson Town Forest regarding access to the property. It was noted that these properties are currently under the management of the Hudson Conservation Commission and are open for use to the public for recreational activities such as hiking, hunting and fishing.

Discussion were held on several proposed recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for review including (summarized here)

- 1 – The Hudson Conservation Commission or Overseeing Authority shall not make or suggest rules that limit public access to town forests or conserved lands when used for recreational activities.
- 2 – The Hudson Conservation Commission or Overseeing Authority shall notify abutting landowners 90 days prior to a timber harvest taking place on Town Forest or Conserved properties.
- 3 – If access were needed from or through any “Town Forest” or “Conserved Lands” to an abutting parcel for an individual timber harvest, an “Application for Access” would be required.

Figure #1 Application for Access was reviewed.

Discussion included proposed abutter notification of 90 days prior. Mr. Dhima noted that most quotations for work are typically valid for 30 days only and that a 90-day notification may require re-quoting with a recommendation that the notification window be consistent with existing town practices.

Mr. Morin suggested that the document should be reviewed by the town attorney.

Mr. Collins will make some updates to the project for further review.

## B - Merrill Park Proposal from 2020

Mr. Collins reviewed Merrill Park Boat Launch Project Outline that had been started some years ago. A review of current conditions was discussed with a goal to do rehabilitation work at the site to include improvements for parking and improvements to open access to the river for public use as well as access for emergency services.

Mr. Dhima noted that there may be possibility to get matching funds from the recreation department to cover some of the costs for this project. It was noted that there would be costs with re-permitting necessary for this project with the state.

Mr. Morin questioned if asbestos could be a problem with the site, with Mr. Collins indicating that, it likely would not be an issue as the work would be improvements to existing conditions to include the existing parking area, installation of guardrail, some tree clearing and addition of loose gravel.

Regarding guardrails, some discussions were held on merits of concerns about liability, Mr. Dhima suggested that if wood guardrails were to be installed, the town DPW could set the posts using

existing procedures and following standard placement requirements as it is a common practice. Additional discussions included alternate options such as boulders to reduce costs.

Mr. Morin was concerned that the ramp access should be wide enough for the fire department to be able to easily carry a boat to the river. Mr. Pinsonneault also supported that every effort should be made to enable access for the fire department.

An initial estimate of \$5K USD was proposed for the project with input from Mr. Dhima and Mr. Morin that costs may be higher.

After extensive discussion on budget, Ms. Rumbaugh made a motion to propose a not to exceed amount of \$10K USD to move the project forward. Mr. Pinsonneault seconded the motion. Mr. Dickinson provided input that a layout and materials list should be included in any presentation to the planning board for this project.

Mr. Collins suggested an amendment to the motion to generate an itemized list of materials for the project.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

#### C – Rangers Town Forest Sub-Committee Update

The sub-committee reviewed correspondence with Dick Holmes, Chair of the Charlestown Conservation Commission who had recently done a project through USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Charlestown has three Town Forests encompassing 438 acres. The first experience with the program had gone well. Monies from the EQIP program were used for control of invasive species, girdling pine trees and wildlife habitat management.

Paperwork for the funding was all handled by Full Circle Forestry and it was noted that it took a long time for approval through NRCS and it was noted that funds from the 2018 Farm Bill ends in 2023.

It was clarified that the land is leased to Full Circle Forestry and NRCS requires a Land Use Control form that the Charleston felt was very broad. The Charlestown lawyer drew up an additional contract with more terms.

Mr. Collins questioned if the town would have to spend any upfront money, which the sub-committee reported there would be some up-front costs to pay the forester to fill out the applications required and noted that there would be no guarantee that the town would get the funding through the EQIP program.

Mr. Dickinson indicated that he would like to see a written proposal from Full Service Forestry, with input. Ms. Rumbaugh input that focus should be on timber harvest and possibility of a town warrant article to get funding for invasive species controls. Input was provided from Mr. Collins and Mr. Pinsonneault on other grants that could be researched for invasive control as an alternate to a warrant article.

#### D – Wood Duck Nesting Box Project

Mr. Pinsonneault updated the committee on wood duck boxes and reviewed costs of raw materials for the commission to fabric vs. the costs to purchase ready-made boxes, with a recommendation that the commission purchase two wood duck boxes for evaluation. Further considerations to build ourselves can be brought forth after receiving and evaluation the pre-fabricated units.

Mr. Kallgren made a motion to spend up to \$200 for purchase of two Wood Duck Nesting Boxes to replace two boxes at the Musquash Pond Conservation area. Motion was seconded by Mr. Dickinson.

Passed 5-0-0

#### E – Hudson Conservation Logo Contest

The commission continued discussions from prior meetings regarding Logo Contest Proposal. Ms. Rumbaugh supplied four tickets to Lost River Gorge followed by additional discussions on prizes. Input was suggested a \$50 gas card for first place, Mr. Morin suggested gift card to Country Brook Farms (amount to be determined) and a third place of tickets to Lost River Gorge.

The logo contest will kick off at Old Home Days and some final wording on the contest to be finalized.

#### F - August Meeting Cancellation

Discussions were held on volunteering for working at Old Home Days in lieu of an August meeting. Mr. Collins noted that if an application were received requiring the Conservation Commission, a meeting would need to be scheduled to meet town obligations.

Mr. Kallgren made a motion to cancel the August meeting, seconded by Mr. Dickinson.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

### **IV. Financial Status**

Mr. Collins reviewed current financial status noting that this is financial date through June and negative numbers will update when the new financial year starts in July. Current balance is approximately \$748K USD

### **V. Correspondence**

Mr. Collins reviewed correspondence regarding NH Lakes Annual Contribution and NRPC Rough trail mapping activities.

NHDES provided notification dated July 5 that a wetland permit application for Executive Drive and that the application was complete. This notification is of the application, it is not a permit or authorization to perform work.

Amy Smagula provided update on results from invasive species controls, noting that Fanwort

control is recommended and that hand harvesting could be performed. It is not expected that additional diving will be needed.

Lake Host Program are looking for folks to work with pay between \$15-\$20 per hour.

Mr. Collins updated the commission on trail blazing activities and requested the commission to think of some names for new trails.

## **VI. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of Meeting Minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

## **VII. Commissioner's Comments**

Ms. Rumbaugh updated the commission that the Full Moon for July is the Buck Moon and would be a "supermoon" at the closest approach to Earth in 2022 at approximately 222K miles. It will peak July 13. It is named the Buck Moon as male deer antlers reach peak growth in early summer.

Additionally, Ms. Rumbaugh encouraged several options for hikes during Blueberry seasons. Recommended Hikes to eat wild blueberries include:

Gap Mountain in Jaffrey area with views of Mt. Monadnock to the north and blueberries on many of the open ledges. This route approximately 2.4 miles.

Ted and Carolyn's trail to the top of North Pack Mountain in Greenfield. Approximately 6 miles, blueberries can again be found on open ledges.

For those who might not want to hike, Ms. Rumbaugh introduced the commission to Wood Sorrel – edible in moderate amounts, this weed can be readily found with a lemony taste which goes well with meat and fish.

## **Motion to adjourn:**

Ms. Rumbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM; seconded by Mr. Pinsonneault.

Motion Carried 5/0/0

*Bill Kallgren*

William Kallgren, HCC Clerk