



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: February 13, 2023

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 X

Carl Murphy
Vice-Chair X

Ken Dickinson
Clerk X

Brian Pinsonneault
Member X

Sandra Rumbaugh
Member X

Linda Krisciunas
Alternate E

Open Seat
Alternate

David Morin
Selectman Rep X

Elvis Dhima
Town Rep E

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

a. HCC Logo Contest – Art Work Evaluation

Selected logo was discussed regarding graphic design (color, etc). Mrs. Rumbaugh suggested that the letters “HCC” be added to the bottom and logo have only a few simple colors to keep duplication costs at a minimum. Mr. Dickinson suggested that the logo have “Hudson” added to the bottom of the logo and noted that the image should be altered in Adobe Photoshop in effort to add text, sharpen the image, etc. Mr. Dickinson intends to review the image and provide comments to Chairman Collins prior to our next regular meeting.

b. Rangers Town Forest Tree Harvest

Mrs. Rumbaugh presented email correspondence provided by Eric Radlof, Full Circle Forestry. Landing area, general timing of harvest, abutter notification, and potential deferral of timber tax were discussed. Landing area is typically ¼ acre with a stone apron and is typically reseeded upon completion of harvesting activities. Landing area costs (approximately \$3,000) are shown as a deduction line item from the timber harvest profit report. Chairman Collins and Mr. Murphy expressed interest in maintaining the landing area as an open field. Harvest could potentially occur in late spring or early summer. Mr. Dickinson noted that timber harvest activities typically occur after mud season.

Our previous harvest at Kimball Hill Town Forest occurred in early summer due to an extended mud season.

Chairman Collins will communicate this week with Mr. Dhima, Town Engineer, who will prepare a signed work order for Full Circle Forestry. Although a minimum of 30 days notification is required, Chairman Collins preferred to notify residents and hikers much earlier. Mr. Pinsonneault volunteered to create an Abutters List. Mrs. Rumbaugh volunteered to draft an Abutter Notification Letter. Chairman Collins asked Mr. Murphy to obtain a quotation for five Forestry Notification Signs to be placed at trailhead locations. Email correspondence provided by Jim Michaud, Town Assessor, was discussed regarding Timber Tax deferral. Selectman Morin will add an agenda item to the next available BOS meeting to discuss the possibility of deferring the 10% NH Timber Tax.

c. **Abutting Land Owner Access Form** = Item Deferred to our next regular meeting in effort to allow for more review of the revised draft.

II. New Business

a. **House Bill 592-FN**

After a brief summary of the proposed bill, Chairman Collins noted that it failed in the House

Review Committee Meeting 2/1/23, therefore no response is necessary. Chairman Collins recommended that all HCC members sign up for future NHACC email notifications.

b. Maintenance Signs

Mr. Murphy to obtain pricing for further discussion at our next regular meeting.

III. Other Business

a. Trail work day

The conservation commission will hold a trail work day at Kimball Hill Town Forest this Sunday March 12, 2023 from 8 AM – 12 PM. Work emphasis on removing old tires, steel drum and other items from the wetland and buffer area in the recently acquired parcel. Remove tree at bottom of Ravine Trail and potentially work on new connector trail. The public is welcome to attend. Mr. Dickinson may email other members to organize small trail work tasks prior to our next regular meeting (March 13). Chairman Collins thanked all attendees of our previous work day at Rangers Town Forest for their effort in removing a large amount of illegally dumped items from the property. He also recommended that we create temporary signage for future work days. Mr. Dickinson suggested purchasing orange construction cones to mark roadside trash piles. Mr. Murphy suggested to attach temporary signage to “election style” aluminum frames. Chairman Collins tasked Mr. Murphy with obtain quotations for the temporary signage.

b. Trail Work Log

Mr. Dickinson presented the initial 2023 Trail Work Log which was created on January 15 and revised on February 12. This is intended to be a live document which is updated monthly. All members are encouraged to email Mr. Dickinson in effort to track all timber downfall removal and other trail work activities. Mr. Collins noted that several trees were removed from Colburn and Musquash Conservation Areas on January 14. Mr. Dickinson will add several downfalls along the Hamblett-Nash Trail and Monadnock Vista Trail to the list. Mr. Murphy suggested that we add additional signage and/or markings on the Hidden Ridge Trail. Mr. Collins requested that the Trail Work Log be uploaded to the Resource Page on our website. There was a brief discussion regarding future projects and general usage of Merrill Park as well.

IV. Financial Status

No new monthly expenses recorded. Approximately \$11,000 was recently approved by the BOS for aquatic vegetation removal. Chairman Collins noted that there should be professional service funds available for removing invasive vegetation in upland areas, i.e. Rangers Town Forest. Mr. Dickinson intends to obtain quotes for removing invasive vegetation along trails prior to the next regular meeting. Chairman Collins noted Saving Special Places workshop will be held on April 15. There is some remaining money available for Registration Fee reimbursement. Conservation Fund = \$756,129.

V. Correspondence

The Chairman reviewed the correspondence which included the following.

A letter from Susan Rouke requesting a future community garden area. Chairman Collins replied to Mrs. Rouke that no specific open area was currently available in Town Conservation Areas, however he encouraged Mrs. Rouke to form an interest group in effort to establish a community garden or partnership possibly on privately owned agricultural land.

2021 NHACC Handbook. Chairman Collins will obtain extra copies for all commission members.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dickinson moved to approve the meeting minutes for January 9, 2023, and January 14, 2023. Mr. Pinsonneault seconded the motion. Motion Carried 5/0/0

VII. Commissioner's Comments

Mr. Pinsonneault noted that there is one more duck box to install at Musquash Pond. Selectman Morin requested that another person be present for safety purposes. He will obtain a larger swamp boat to facilitate installation. Chairman Collins inquired about installing a game camera. Mr. Pinsonneault noted that we should monitor the usage of the duck boxes prior to game camera installation.

Mrs. Rumbaugh reminded everyone that it is possible to get a Poison Ivy rash in the winter.

Mr. Dickinson requested that we update the 2012 Open Space Master Plan and encouraged others to occasionally review Conservation Commission minutes from other NH communities in effort to further educate our commission on current topics, activities, etc.

Chairman Collins reminded everyone to review the Natural Resources portion of the revised Town of Hudson, NH Master Plan. Email comments to Brian Groth, Town Planner. The Master Plan revisions will be discussed at the March 3, 2023 Planning Board meeting. Chairman Collins noted that the map on Page 32 should be revised to reflect recently purchased open space lands.

Selectman Morin requested that we update the Open Space Master Plan simultaneously with the Town of Hudson, NH Master Plan.

Chairman Collins encouraged our commission to pursue land acquisition in the Robinson Pond Watershed Area. He also looks forward to our upcoming trail work efforts.

VIII. Non-Public Session

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to enter into Non-Public Session at 8:00 PM, seconded by Mr. Murphy. Motion Passed.

Mrs. Rumbaugh moved to leave Non-Public Session at 8:19 PM, seconded by Mr. Pinsonneault. Motion Passed.

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to seal the Non-Public Session minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy. Motion Passed.

Motion to adjourn:

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:20 PM; seconded by Mr. Murphy

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Ken Dickinson

Ken Dickinson, Clerk