



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: April 10, 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 <u> X </u>	Carl Murphy Vice-Chair <u> X </u>	Ken Dickinson Clerk <u> X </u>	Brian Pinsonneault Member <u> X </u>
Sandra Rumbaugh Member <u> X </u>	Linda Krisciunas Alternate <u> E </u>	Open Seat Alternate <u> </u>	David Morin Selectman Rep <u> E </u>
			Elvis Dhima Town Rep <u> X </u>

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT 07:01 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items: None

I. New Business

- a. **S.L. Chasse – Conditional Use Permit Review:** re-designing without impact (Withdrawn)

II. Old Business

a. **Brox Industries, Inc. Expansion Project – NHDES Dredge & Fill Application Review:**

Bruce Gilday of BAG Land Consultants presented a project along with Scott Rielly, Brox Plant Manager and Erik Stevenson, V.P. of Real Estate Operations for Brox Industries, Inc. Purpose is to connect their North area and West area quarry operations. Two of the larger wetland areas will be avoided/protected and three wetland areas of lesser rank will be impacted. Site walks with NHDES, NHFG, EPA, and ACOE have already been conducted. 38,758 SF of wetland impact proposed (70% reduction of the initial request of 3 AC). Proposed 6 AC mitigation parcel was recently accepted by the BOS and is now under review by NHDES. No vernal pools are present. Wetlands show signs of shrinkage due to previous land modification uphill found outside of the wetland buffer area. A site walk was scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 6:00 pm meeting at the Greeley Road access gate located across from Sousa Blvd. Mrs. Rumbaugh asked if there were meeting minutes from previous NHDES Wetlands Bureau site walks. Chairman Collins will obtain NHDES meeting minutes prior to our site walk. Site walk TBD for the mitigation parcel. No endangered species are present in the proposed quarry expansion area. Protection fencing will be installed outside 50 ft buffer, therefore a local Conditional Use Permit is not required.

b. **NRPC Trail Mapping Update:**

Chairman Collins presented three kiosk maps as created by Ryan Friedman (NRPC) for Kimball Hill Town Forest, Colburn Town Forest, and Pelham Rd. Conservation Area and asked for comments. Mr. Friedman is continuing to work on the other maps. Chairman Collins will coordinate with Crissy Peterson, Recreation Dept. Director, regarding Robinson Pond Recreation Area and John Madden, Benson Park Committee Chairman, in effort to reconfirm map graphics for both areas. Mrs. Rumbaugh asked several questions which were answered by Chairman Collins, i.e. addition of QR code for cell phone usage. Mr. Dickinson stated that he had several comments on each graphic. He will provide a separate memo to Mr. Collins to forward to NRPC staff for their consideration. Mr. Murphy commented on the future trail extension that is shown on the Kimball Hill Town Forest Map. Chairman Collins replied that we would perform the proposed trail work soon.

c. **Merrill Park Kayak and Canoe Launch Update:**

Mr. Dhima, Town Engineer, stated that the grant has been awarded. Project cost is \$34,000. approx. (80% state funded of which HCC provides \$7000. commitment). Governor Sununu signs the award on May 27th; therefore the project is due to move forward in June. Chairman Collins inquired about selected local contractors. Mr. Dhima positively responded that Kennedy Excavation was awarded the construction portion of the project. Tree clearing will be performed by Town of Hudson Public Works Dept. Chairman Collins inquired about a potential late June completion date. Mr. Dhima will request an early June project start from the BOS on May 25th and setup a groundbreaking event. He anticipates that the project will be completed in July at the latest. More details to follow. A brief discussion followed regarding potential submittal for another NHDES project within this grant period, i.e. 2023 design and planning grant for Robinson Pond launch improvements.

d. Robinson Pond Watershed Protection:

Mr. Dhima, Town Engineer, provided an update to activities required to meet the federal MS4 General Stormwater Permit. He stated that Town staff recently conducted their annual training day, i.e. clean street sweeping. BOS approved \$30,000 for cleaning out catch basins around Robinson Pond in effort to reduce high phosphorus levels. He presented VHB consultant recommendations to increase the buffer zone around Robinson Pond further regulating construction activities. A warrant article is intended to be on the 2024 Town Ballot to adopt a Robinson Pond Overlay District. In effort to coordinate with the Planning Board, Chairman Collins intends to add this item for discussion during our upcoming regular meeting in May or June. A brief discussion followed regarding the amount developable land around Robinson Pond, zoning enforcement challenges, and the need to create an overlay district to satisfy the MS4 permit. Mr. Dickinson asked his fellow commissioners for their opinion regarding the “Other Consideration” portion of VHB document. As an example, Mr. Dickinson stated that a lesser slope requirement should be considered in effort to protect a greater area of steeper slopes around Robinson Pond. Mr. Collins stated that the proposed foundation location should be required on a Conditional Use Permit application. Mr. Dickinson asked if a HCC workshop is needed and/or joint workshops with ZBA and Planning Boards. Mr. Collins asked everyone to read our packet material in preparation to discuss regulations at our next regular meeting. Mr. Collins thought that September would be the appropriate timeframe for joint board workshops. Mr. Dickinson stated that two workshops would most likely be needed to draft the proposed regulation language.

e. Maintenance and Tree Harvest Signs:

Mr. Murphy presented revised signs to post at future timber harvests and trail work days. Trail work/maintenance signs would be double sided corrugated plastic with aluminum stakes. Four for \$65. Timber harvest signs could be laminated, however Chairman Collins asked Mr. Murphy to explore the additional cost to obtain reusable plastic signs. Mr. Murphy stated that of \$150.00 is a reasonable budget for all signs. Mr. Pinsonneault made a motion to expend upto \$150.00 for the purchase of at least 4 trail work signs and more durable timber harvest signs. Mrs. Rumbaugh seconded the motion. Motion Carried 5/0/0

f. Land Access Application:

Chairman Collins stated that Mrs. Rumbaugh has finalized the application and it is now on file.

III. Other Business

a. Trail Work Day:

The conservation commission will hold a trail work day on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 9 AM – 12 PM with meeting point TBD. The public is welcome to attend.

b. Trail Work Log:

No new blowdowns were reported. Mr. Dickinson will review and update the trail work log for our May meeting. Brief discussion continued regarding plans for Colburn Conservation Area workday on Sunday, April 16th.

c. “No-Motorized Vehicle” Sign Donation Request:

A sign donation request, as written by Corey Jimmo was reviewed. Mr. Jimmo proposes to laminate and donate 10 “No-Motorized Vehicle” signs to the HCC. Mr. Pinsonneault made a motion to accept this donation. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Motion Carried 5/0/0

IV. Financial Status:

Warrant Article for Town Forest passed during our March 2023 Annual Town Vote. An account line item is to be added by the Finance Director on our future Monthly Financial Reports. \$1,780. expended since March 13 for professional services and \$355. expended for Association Dues/Fees. Approx. 78% of overall budget has been expended. Conservation Fund = \$757,615.

V. Correspondence:

The Chairman reviewed the correspondence which included the following:

140 Kimball Hill Rd. Zoning Enforcement progress: Memos and Notice of Violation, as issued by Town of Hudson Zoning Administrator, Bruce Buttrick. Mr. Dhima noted that the owner is currently addressing their violation in the wetland buffer area. Mrs. Rumbaugh raised questions regarding process of enforcement for similar violations. Mr. Collins stated that fines can be imposed. Mr. Dhima added that the Town can pursue litigation and there is a continuing wetland buffer violation on Highland St. that is currently in legal process. Wetland buffers are ultimately required to be restored. Most cases do not typically require litigation.

Chairman Collins provided an update to HB 2. Chairman Collins signed a support letter submitted by NHACC chair, Barbara Richter. The bill language has subsequently been revised to continue professional licensure/certification requirements for Foresters and Wetland Scientists.

NHACC Wetlands Training Series: April 14, May 19, June 2 (Friday PM) also on youtube.com

VI. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 13, 2023.
Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Motion Carried 5/0/0

VII. Commissioner’s Comments:

Mr. Pinsonneault reminded everyone that May 1 is the start of spring turkey hunting season.

Mr. Murphy asked if the Town had interest in documenting the process of naturalizing the golf course into a wetland restoration area at the Hillwood Development (Target Distribution Center) project. Mr. Dhima explained that Town will be monitoring the entire project during the construction phase via drone footage with monthly flyovers on standard routes to supplement on-site construction monitoring. No pre-construction meetings were conducted yet, however Town will have a construction trailer (temp office) located on-site (TBD). Chairman Collins concurred that it would be a good idea to obtain photo documentation of existing conditions prior to

construction. Mr. Dhima asked for specific areas to be identified, i.e. proposed wetland crossing areas, riverfront area and sound berm area. Mr. Dickinson requested if the consultant monitoring reports can be provided digitally and/or posted to our website. Mr. Dhima informed everyone that this will be a multi-year project.

Mrs. Rumbaugh inquired regarding status of abutter notification for timber harvest notification. Abutter letters were sent out recently. Mr. Dhima will follow up to see if there were any concerns.

Mr. Collins informed everyone that the seasonal Lake Host positions at both Robinson Pond and Ottarnic Pond Boat Launches remains open. An alternate position on the HCC also is vacant.

VIII. Motion to adjourn:

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:58 PM; seconded by Mr. Murphy.
Motion Carried 5-0-0

Ken Dickinson

Ken Dickinson, Clerk