



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: August 14, 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> E </u>	Linda Krisciunas Alternate <u> X </u>	Open Seat Alternate <u> </u>	David Morin Selectman Rep <u> X </u>
			Elvis Dhima Town Rep <u> E </u>

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT 07:03 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items: None

I. New Business

a. Public Hearing for Land Purchase – 13 Tiger Rd.

Public input was opened and closed at 7:05 PM. Chairman Collins intends to organize a media event after the formal purchase of the property has been completed. Mr. Pinsonneault spoke in favor of the land purchase and moved to expend \$327,750 from the Town of Hudson Conservation Fund to purchase approximately 43.7 AC currently owned by Helen C. Stabler, Map 143, Lot 006. Motion seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Motion Carried 5/0/0

II. Old Business

a. Trail Map Review:

Chairman Collins mentioned that all trail map changes have been addressed by Ryan Friedman of NRPC. Trail map brochures will contain descriptions of trails and indicate their level of difficulty. Ryan Friedman intends to have revised trail maps available for our September meeting; therefore further questions and comments were deferred.

b. Rangers Town Forest:

Chairman Collins noted that Eric Radlof provided a draft version of the timber harvest bid documentation. Mr. Collins explained the bid process. Mr. Collins will obtain clarification from Mr. Radlof concerning his comment regarding Hemlock harvesting to better understand the harvest area. Mr. Radlof has marked a substantial buffer distance between edge of harvesting area and the adjacent residential properties. The landing area intends to be oversized in effort remove the maximum amount of invasive vegetation adjacent to the Rangers Dr. cul-de-sac. Once the bid is awarded, a harvest should be scheduled prior to December. Mr. Murphy asked a question regarding harvest operations. Mr. Dickinson clarified some questions regarding the Forester's on-site scope of work based on our previous harvest. Mrs. Krisciunas asked if there was a conservation reason for the harvest. Mr. Collins replied that it was for overall forest health reasons and to increase the future production of each stand.

c. Draft Warrant Discussion:

Chairman Collins asked for commissioners input on the draft warrant meeting notes as provided by Sandra Rumbaugh and Town Planner, Brian Groth. Mr. Groth recommended we review land use codes from other towns in NH, i.e. North Hampton and provide suggestions for revisions to our existing wetland ordinance. Revisions will be drafted by Mr. Groth and ultimately refined and voted into action by the Planning Board.

Mr. Dickinson commented on North Hampton's regulations generally stating that they are more extensive and complex than Hudson's ordinance. North Hampton's regulations have a separate Groundwater Protection ordinance that works in conjunction with their Wetland Protection ordinance

and other ordinances. Mr. Collins asked we review codes from other communities in preparation for providing comments on the draft article. Mr. Collins is interested to look closer at Merrimack’s ordinance. Mr. Collins mentioned that our 2009 Prime Wetland Study be revisited in 2024 and will obtain a digital copy this fall for the HCC to review in preparation for further discussion. Mr. Collins will ask Town Manager, Mr. Malizia, about the status of the Pond Reclamation Fund.

d. Weed Control Improvements at Musquash Conservation Area:

Mr. Dickinson noted that he recently met with Eric Radlof of Full Circle Forestry in effort to obtain a proposal for invasive weed control along the Musquash Conservation Area trails between the main parking lot and the Whispering Pines trail located at the northern end of Musquash Pond. Japanese Knotweed eradication/control around the Merrill historic barn foundation was also reviewed and trail erosion in several areas. Mr. Radlof stated that Full Circle Forestry offers both a full day option and a half day option. A permit to treat invasive vegetation within the pond and wetland protection areas will be required which should take less than one month for approval. Full Circle Forestry uses the same mix of chemicals for both the treatment of Knotweed as well as other invasive vegetation. Mr. Radlof concurred with Mr. Murphy that we should consider “bog bridging” as a preferred method of minimizing trail erosion. Mr. Murphy recommended that Knotweed be treated in early fall while Knotweed is blooming. Mr. Murphy stated that we should also contact the company that SPNHF has successfully utilized for a competitive bid. Mr. Collins asked if herbicides would be “pet friendly” and Mr. Dickinson will obtain clarification from Mr. Radlof. Mr. Dickinson stated that Full Circle Forestry has successfully treated invasives in Pelham, Hollis, and Meredith using the same chemical treatment. A short discussion followed regarding trail user notification. Mr. Dickinson will obtain a proposal from Full Circle Forestry and seek a proposal from the other recommended company for review at our next meeting.

III. Other Business

a. Possible Eagle Scout Project:

Chairman Collins noted that there is a potential eagle scout intending to build trail kiosks this fall.

b. Trail Work Day:

The HCC scheduled our August trail work day to Saturday, August 26, 2023, 8 AM – 12 PM with meeting point at Kimball Hill Town Forest. Primary goal is to complete the newly named trail “White Tail Way”

c. Trail Work Log:

Mr. Dickinson reviewed the trail work log. The majority of items has been completed, or is in the process of being addressed; however emergent growth of shrubs within the powerline corridor remains an issue. A short conversation continued regarding additional trail work at Musquash, i.e. add trail signs on east side (beyond Musquash Brook bridge) for Autumn 2023.

d. Duck Box Installation:

Mr. Pinsonneault purchased duck box installation hardware. In approximately two weeks Mr. Pinsonneault intends to install a duck box in the southerly portion of Robinson Pond near its outlet. Mr. Collins will locate a post driver to complete this project.

IV. Financial Status:

No new expenses during July. Chairman Collins has not received any updates from NHDES on DASH operation schedule.

Conservation Fund Balance = \$766,596.

V. Correspondence:

Chairman Collins reviewed our monthly correspondence which included the following:

- a) Education session regarding Road Maintenance BMP
- b) "NH Lakeside" magazine donation request
- c) Beaver control contractor outreach pamphlet

VI. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to approve the Non-Public meeting minutes for July 10, 2023.
Mrs. Krisciunas seconded the motion.
Motion Carried 5/0/0

Mrs. Krisciunas moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for June 12, 2023 and July 10, 2023. Mr. Pinsonneault seconded the motion.
Motion Carried 5/0/0

VII. Commissioner's Comments:

Selectman Morin stated that the BOS are recommending a \$0 increase for FY 2024.

VIII. Motion to adjourn:

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:16 PM; seconded by Mr. Murphy. Motion Carried 5/0/0

Ken Dickinson

Ken Dickinson, Clerk