



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Conservation Commission



William Collins, Chairman      Dave Morin, Selectmen Liaison

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**DATE: October 16, 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>  X  </u>	Open Seat Alternate <u>      </u>	David Morin Selectman Rep <u>  E  </u>
			Elvis Dhima Town Rep <u>  E  </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. New Business

- a. **Eagle Scout Project** - Deferred Item to November Agenda

**b. Annual LCHIP Monitoring Reports:**

Mr. Murphy volunteered to perform the boundary inspections and annual monitoring reports for both Tri-Town Forest and Musquash Conservation Areas. Reports are due by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Collins will further coordinate with Mr. Murphy.

**II. Old Business**

**a. Draft Warrant Discussion:**

Mrs. Rumbaugh presented a draft wetland ordinance document. Mr. Pinsonneault inquired about the process of Prime Wetlands designation. Mr. Collins and Mr. Dickinson provided commentary regarding this process. Mr. Dickinson inquired regarding process and review timeline. Mr. Collins explained that Mrs. Rumbaugh used the Town of Merrimack's ordinance as a primary reference and incorporated comments from other NH municipalities as well. Mrs. Rumbaugh further explained the evolution of her draft ordinance since August, i.e. a tiered buffer system was incorporated similar to Town of Bow, NH. She mentioned that Bogs and Vernal Pools should receive greater protection than other wetlands. The classification of streams should be recognized, i.e. Town of Hampton, NH. Hampton, NH has both an aquifer protection protection and comprehensive shoreland protection overlay districts. Mr. Collins noted that Mrs. Rumbaugh made an excellent effort and provided a good start for Mr. Groth to refine and present to the Planning Board for their concurrence and approval.

Mr. Collins requested comments regarding the front end portion of the ordinance. Mrs. Krisciunas noted that some of the wording might be difficult for the general public to fully understand. Mr. Murphy asked if wetland functions and values were the same as wildlife functions and values. After a brief discussion, the Commission focused on reviewing wetland buffers. Mr. Dickinson suggested deleting the portion regarding Atlantic White Cedar Swamps and providing a vernal pool buffer exceeding 75 feet. He questioned if vernal pools should have their own category. There was discussion regarding if prime wetland buffers should be included in the ordinance revisions. Mr. Collins proposed to increase vernal pool buffers to 100 feet. He also noted that the soils portion of the draft ordinance needed further refinement. Mr. Dickinson recommended that references to the Town of Hudson GIS system layers should be noted. Mr. Pinsonneault noted that Section IV needs some rewording. Mr. Collins noted that a "List of Allowable Uses" within the buffer would be beneficial. He asked Mrs. Rumbaugh to review the "NHDES list of minimum impact projects" to see if our proposed list would require further modification. Mr. Collins also noted that the "List of Prohibited Uses" should be vetted by Town Staff. In general, the proposed revisions would give the ordinance refined definition.

A discussion regarding conservation land funding and future warrant articles followed the review of ordinances. A brief discussion followed on the proposed Aquifer Protection Overlay District ordinance. Mr. Collins suggested that we move the definitions (front end) portion to the wetlands ordinance itself. Mr, Dickinson suggested that the proposed district area also be reviewed for a "List of Allowable Uses" uses by planning staff. He noted that some of the verbiage did not apply to Hudson and that the proposed ordinance could be shortened. Further discussion on the proposed Aquifer Protection Overlay District was deferred to our regular November meeting.

Mrs. Rumbaugh asked Mr. Collins if she could coordinate with Mr. Groth and Mr. Dhima to obtain

their general impression and further refine the draft ordinances within the next month. Mr. Collins concurred. Mrs. Rumbaugh stated that she would edit our wetlands ordinance (Section 334) for Mr. Collins to submit to Mr. Groth; in effort to move that portion along with the Planning Board. Mr. Collins stated that he would obtain GRANIT view mapping information for Hudson's aquifer for review prior to our regular November meeting.

**b. Weed Control Improvements at Musquash Conservation Area:**

Mr. Dickinson noted that he contacted both Full Circle Forestry in NH and Bay State Forestry in MA. Both companies were fully booked for 2023; however Eric Radlof of Full Circle Forestry (FCF) provided a 2024 season bid for \$125 per man hour including travel and materials. They could provide full treatment for trails within the defined project area in one day for a price not to exceed \$3000 plus \$250 NHDES permit fee. For the Knotweed control area around the historic barn foundation two prices were submitted: \$125 per man hour not to exceed \$625 optional bid for Knotweed cutting and removal (prep work) and \$125 per man hour not to exceed \$1250 for a September 2024 foliar herbicide treatment. 2025 follow-up treatment was also recommended.

Mrs. Krisciunas asked if warning signs would be posted, if trails would need to be closed and if the treatments would need to occur annually. Mr. Dickinson responded that FCF would post signage prior to treatment and trails would be closed for a 48 hour period approx. following treatment. FCF intends to perform trail herbicide treatments annually. Knotweed treatment is intended to occur less frequently; however Mr. Dickinson projected that Knotweed would be a continued management issue, due to the larger stand located upstream.

Mr. Pinsonneault was in favor of moving forward with both treatments, in effort to reduce the spread of Knotweed and other invasive vegetation. Mrs. Rumbaugh asked what account the expenditure would occur within. Mr. Collins noted that it typically is Professional Services. Mr. Murphy noted that grant funds are available via USDA. Mr. Murphy will research grant funding for next year. Mr. Dickinson presented the following motion:

Motion #1: to approve the herbicide proposal by Full Circle Forestry "Part A" in the amount not to exceed \$3250. prior to June 30, 2024.

Mrs. Rumbaugh seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1.

Chairman Collins was not in favor as he felt the cost was excessive for herbicide treatments for Poison Ivy. Mr. Dickinson noted that the herbicide treatments would target all invasive vegetation (not exclusive to Poison Ivy).

After continued discussion regarding the Knotweed portion, Mr. Dickinson presented the following second motion:

Motion #2: to approve the proposal as presented by Full Circle Forestry for Knotweed treatment services in the amount not to exceed \$1900 for FY 2024.

Mrs. Rumbaugh seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Dickinson noted that FCF has the ability to treat smaller portions other properties, i.e. Hudson Town Forest parking area, contingent upon work that can completed within one work day (similar to their annual contracts with Pelham, Hollis and Meredith).

**c. Map Acceptance – Hudson Town Forest:**

Chairman Collins presented the NRPC revised map. Mr. Dickinson requested a few revisions. Mr. Collins entertained a motion to approve the revised map with requests for limited revisions incorporated. Motion by Mr. Pinsonneault and seconded by Mr. Murphy.  
Motion Carried 5-0.

**III. Other Business**

**a. Trail Work Day:**

After some discussion of the need for continued work activities at Musquash Conservation Area, the HCC scheduled our November trail work day to Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12 PM with meeting point TBD. A site walk will be scheduled to review our newest conservation property located at 13 Tiger Rd. (along Robinson Pond) in December. Mr. Collins intends to perform trail improvements on the eastern side of Musquash Conservation Area this winter.

**IV. Financial Status:**

\$400 were expended from the Professional Services account in Sept. Conservation Fund Balance = \$770,603.

**V. Correspondence:**

Chairman Collins reviewed our monthly correspondence which included the following:

- a) 13 Tiger Road news article
- b) NHACC Annual Conference Reminder
- c) Annual Land Monitoring Reports (Conservation Land Stewardship Program Reminder)
- d) Trail Conditions Memo (email from Mr. Dickinson to Chairman Collins)
- e) Invasive Weed Control Bid Scope (email from Mr. Dickinson to Eric Radlof)
- f) Invasive Weed Control Pricing (email from Mr. Radlof to Mr. Dickinson)
- g) Invasive Weed Control Bid (coordination emails between Mr. Radlof and Mr. Dickinson)

**VI. Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for August 14, 2023 and September 11, 2023. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. Motion Carried 5-0.

**VII. Commissioner's Comments:**

Mr. Pinsonneault reminded everyone that it is hunting season. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Dickinson thanked Mrs. Rumbaugh for her efforts with our ordinance revisions. In effort to further establish new our trails, Mr. Dickinson encouraged everyone to hike our new trail segments at both the Pelham Rd. conservation area and White Tail Way at Hudson Town Forest after tick season. Chairman Collins signed the contract for timber harvest work at Rangers Town Forest. Mr. Collins will also attend the next BOS meeting to discuss FY 2024 HCC budget items.

**VIII. Motion to adjourn:**

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:13 PM; seconded by Mr. Murphy.  
Motion Carried 5-0.

*Ken Dickinson*

Ken Dickinson, Clerk