



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: July 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> X </u>	Open Seat Alternate <u> </u>	David Morin Selectman Rep <u> X </u>
			Elvis Dhima Town Rep <u> X </u>

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT 07:05 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items: None

I. New Business

a. none

II. Old Business

a. Trail Map Review:

Chairman Collins presented a new version of Benson Park trail map that NRPC prepared for comment. In general, all members were in agreement that the new map with thinner trail graphics reads cleaner than the previous version. Yellow and green trail lines could be an issue, so Mr. Friedman needs to be cautious of how colors could fade over time. Ryan Friedman is currently on vacation, however Mr. Collins anticipates that he will have a set of revised maps ready for review in August. Mr. Collins intends to meet with Mr. Friedman next week after his vacation.

b. Merrill Park:

Chairman Collins mentioned that this was a great project. Mr. Dhima informed us that work has been completed at Merrill Park minus safety sign installation and hydroseed monitoring. Selectman Morin reported that the new stairs are still difficult for the emergency responders; however it does provide a wider path for emergency rescue boat operations.

c. Draft Warrant Article Discussion:

This line item was intended as a follow up preparation to present a draft warrant article to the Planning Board regarding proposed zoning amendments extending the wetland buffers as recommended earlier this year by the EPA, town staff and VHB's memorandum for improving water quality at both Robinson and Ottarnic Pond watershed areas. Sandra Rumbaugh asked several questions of Mr. Dhima regarding preparation of the draft warrant article, i.e. clarification of non-structural drainage improvements and public outreach/education. After some discussion regarding scope, timeframe, buffer and definition of the watershed area it was highly recommended that a town-wide 75 foot wetland buffer be established for all properties within Hudson as well as the creation of a watershed conservation overlay district. Mr. Dhima mentioned that a 75 foot buffer would be consistent with the NHDES regulations for leach field setback. Selectman Morin suggested that we invite Town Planner, Brian Groth and Planning Board Chairman, Tim Malley, to our next regular meeting. Mr. Collins asked Mrs. Rumbaugh to speak with Brian Groth for assistance in preparing a draft warrant article for discussion in August.

d. ATV usage:

Chairman Collins stated that a he submitted a letter to the owner of 10 Dumont in effort to obtain access, however he has not received any response. There have been no further complaints this month. Mr. Dickinson inspected the trail leading from Dumont Rd yesterday

and noted that shrub/understory growth along the trail appears to be restricting some ATV usage. ATV usage will be continued to be monitored at Musquash Conservation Area.

e. Wood Duck Nesting Box Project:

Mr. Pinsonneault provided a brief update, specs and installation details on the duck box project, i.e. boxes will be easily removable for future maintenance. Mr. Pinsonneault requested \$150 to purchase 10 galvanized steel poles from a local vendor and \$81.00 for new clamps from Home Depot for the Duck Box Project to be completed in Fall 2023. Mr. Dickinson moved to expend upto \$250.00 for the purchase of poles and hardware to mount and install the new wood duck nesting boxes. Motion seconded by Mr. Murphy. Motion Carried 5/0/0

III. Other Business

a. Trail Work Day:

The HCC rescheduled our July trail work day to Sunday, July 16, 2023, 9 AM – 12 PM with meeting point at Kimball Hill Town Forest.

IV. Financial Status:

HCC expended in June \$38,160. for professional services and \$188.27 for small equipment/materials. Conservation Fund Balance = \$762,748. (approx. \$435,000 will remain for future land purchase upon approval of the 13 Tiger Rd. acquisition). Chairman Collins will attend the 7/11 BOS meeting in effort to obtain approval for the purchase of 13 Tiger Rd. Forestry account balance was not shown on the June monthly report, however Mr. Collins will follow up to get it shown next month.

V. Correspondence:

Chairman Collins reviewed our monthly correspondence which included the following:

- a) Email from our new Zoning Administrator, Mr. Sullivan, regarding 140 Kimball Hill Rd. All items have been removed from the wetland buffer achieving compliance.
- b) Email from Amy Smagula, NHDES Limnologist: Field observations and Pond mapping included. Ms. Smagula noted that Robinson Pond has been scheduled for DASH operations, however Ottarnic Pond is already too full of aquatic invasives for effective DASH operations this year. Chairman Collins will follow up with NHDES regarding the need for herbicide treatment at Ottarnic Pond in 2024 versus the anticipated DASH services.

VI. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for the June 5, 2023 Non-Public meeting minutes. Mr. Pinsonneault seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 4/0/1

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for the June 10, 2023 Site Visit meeting minutes as corrected. Mr. Pinsonneault seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 5/0/0

VII. Commissioner's Comments:

Mr. Dickinson provided an update on his progress for treating upland invasives and repairing eroded trails at Musquash Conservation Area as follows:

Mr. Dickinson contacted Eric Radlof of Full Circle Forestry. Mr. Radlof requested a site visit which was scheduled for Thursday 7/13 at 2pm. Mr. Radlof explained that Full Circle Forestry currently performs similar services in Pelham, Hollis and Meredith. They perform this work on an annual basis, therefore Full Circle Forestry has a standard procedure. There is a half day rate and a full day rate for herbicide treatments typically consisting of a two-man crew.

Mr. Dickinson also performed a preliminary estimate for the amount of gravel (24 to 48 cubic yards) that would be needed to repair approximately 300 linear feet of trails at Musquash Conservation Area. It is a substantial amount and may require contracted services in addition to volunteer efforts. Trail conditions are poor due to excessive rain. Erosion has also increased along the Hamblett-Nash Trail from mountain bike usage. Mr. Radlof will also evaluate these conditions and provide recommendations during his site visit as Full Circle Forestry can be contracted for other trail improvement work.

VIII. Motion to enter into Non-Public Session:

Mr. Dickinson moved to enter into a non-public session at 8:24 PM; seconded by Mr. Pinsonneault. Motion Carried 5/0/0

IX. Motion to seal Non-Public Session Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Pinsonneault moved to seal the non-public session meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Murphy. Motion Carried 5/0/0

X. Motion to adjourn:

Mrs. Rumbaugh moved to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:51 PM; seconded by Mr. Murphy. Motion Carried 5/0/0

Ken Dickinson

Ken Dickinson, Clerk