

12 School Street \* Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 \* Tel: 603-886-6008 \* Fax: 603-594-1142

# CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA October 16, 2023

The Town of Hudson Conservation Commission will hold its next meeting on October 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buxton Meeting Room, located in Town Hall 12 School Street, Hudson, NH.

- ✓ Call to Order
- ✓ Pledge of Allegiance
- ✓ Roll Call
- ✓ Alternates
- ✓ Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items

# I. New Business:

- a. Eagle Scout Project- Christopher Darbe Troop 20-Deferred Until November
- b. Annual LCIP Monitoring Report Tri Town Forest and Musquash Conservation Area

# II. Old Business:

- a. Draft Warrant Discussion-S. Rumbaugh
- b. Weed Control and Trail Improvements- Ken Dickinson
- c. Weed Control Bid refer to correspondence d.
- d. Map Acceptance Hudson Town Forest

# III. Other Business:

a. Work Day - November?

# IV. Financial Status:

Current Report

#### V. Correspondence

- a. Annual Land Monitoring
- b. Trail Conditions
- c. Invasive Weed Control
- d. Invasive Weed Control Pricing

#### VI. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023
- b. Meeting Minutes August 14, 2023

#### VII. Commissioner's Comments:

VIII. Non Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

William Collins

William Collins, Chairman

Draft By Ken Dickinson (Sent to Full Circle Forestry for Pricing)

Musquash Conservation Area - Invasive Plant Control (Herbicide Treatment) - Scope of Work 2023:

Submitted by: Ken Dickinson, Hudson Conservation Commission member on August 10, 2023

#### Summary:

Treat invasive plants and shrubs within a range of 2-3' of trail edges with a focus on Poison Ivy and Honeysuckle Vines in effort to keep trails open and safe for hiking. Other invasive species present: Multiflora Rose, Burning Bush, Autumn Olive, Glossy Buckthorn, Bittersweet, Garlic Mustard

#### Primary Area (early October 2023):

Nash/Hamblett Trail - from parking area kiosk to Meetinghouse Trail southern junction (1<sup>st</sup> junction).

Colburn Trail - within 200 ft of parking area

Meetinghouse Trail - full length

#### Secondary Area (early October 2023):

Whispering Pines Trail – short loop trail located off of Nash/Hamblett Trail

Colburn Trail - both segments within the Powerline Corridor Easement

Nash-Hamblett Trail – segments within the Powerline Corridor Easement

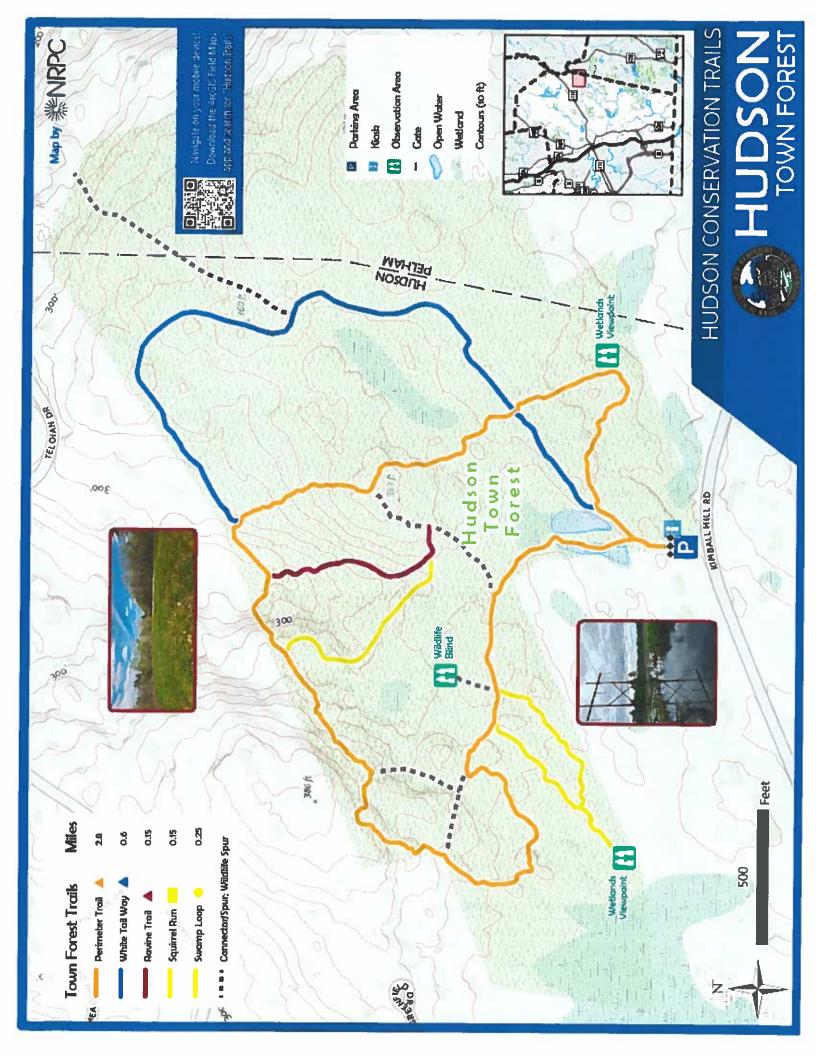
Nash-Hamblett Trail - northern end of trail (first 200 ft) from Woodland Drive entrance

Bonus: first 25 ft of trail located across from Copper Hill Road (along Musquash Road embankment)

#### Knotweed Control Area (spring 2024):

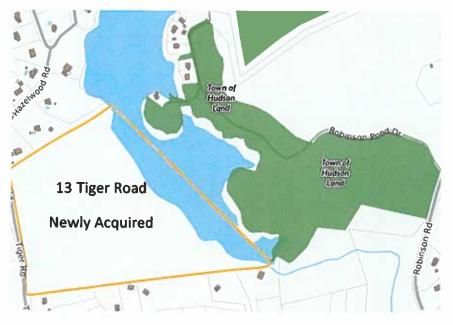
Merrill Barn Foundation (located at intersection of Nash-Hamblett and Colburn Trails)

Treatment Area = 105' x 70' (3700 SF) triangular area



# For your Exploring Enjoyment!

Hudson Conservation Commission members are pleased to announce that another 43 acres of prime forested land have been added to the town inventory of Conserved Land around the southern end of Robinson Pond. The Transfer of Ownership of this beautiful parcel located at 13 Tiger Road took place in early September and is now open to the public to hike and enjoy! This newly acquired parcel ties in with the Berrigan Property which was purchased by the HCC a few years back on the southerly side of Robinson Pond Drive for the puppose of protecting a very important watershed from future development. Ease of access to the property can be made from the Hazelwood/Tiger Road connection. Drive to the top of Tiger Road and the parcel will be on your left. Additionally, there are no current plans to develop hiking trails at this time so please be careful while exploring!



A land purchase such as this does not happen without the concerted efforts of a great group of people at Town Hall. We on the commission would like to thank the Current BOS, our Town Liaisons Elvis Dhima, Don Kirkland and Doreena Stickney and our Town Administrator Steve Malizia for supporting and helping us finalizing the deal.



HCC Members pictured, (L to R) Sandra Rumbaugh, Bill Collins and Linda Krisciunas. Commission Members who could not attend the photo op... Carl Murphy, Brian Pinsonneault and Ken Dickinson.

Expenditure Report - Including Carry Forward Activity Conservation Committee As Of: September 2023, GL Year 2024	Budget & PY Adjustments Net Budget MTD Exp YTD Exp Encumbered		0.00 0.00 -33.00 328,452.00	2e 0.00 2.300.00 0.00 0.00	1.327.00 0.00	500.00	0.00 76,526.00 400.00 800.00 28,000.00	0.00 52,753.00 367.00 329,252.00	0.00 28,000.00 0.00 28,000.00
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	Budget	Conservation Fund	Purchase Property 0.00	Conserv Col 2.300.00	Conserv Col 1.327.00	Conserv Co 500.00	Conserv Co 48,626.00	Total Conservation Fund selected Year 52,753.00	00.00

Page: 2 bmckee ReportSortedExpenditure Conservation	Balance Available %Used	-276,499.00 624.139 0.00 100.000 -276,499.00 442.401
	Ba YTD Exp Encumbered Ava	0.00 28,000.00 28,000.00
d Activity	YTD Exp	329,252.00 0.00 329,252.00
arry Forwar mittee ' <sup>ear 2024</sup>	MTD Exp	367.00 0.00 367.00
Expenditure Report - Including Carry Forward Activity Conservation Committee Town of Hudson, NH As Of: September 2023, GL Year 2024	Net Budget	52,753.00 28,000.00 80,753.00
As Of: Sept	Budget & PY Adjustments	0.00
Expendi	Prior Year Budget Encumbered	0.00 28,000.00 28,000.00
	Budget	52,753.00 0.00 52,753.00
Run: 10/04/23 2:41PM	Account Number	Selected Year Prior Year Grand Total

Town of Hudson, NH Conservation Cash Flow Fiscal Year 2024	
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	Anc	Aug	Sep	lot Iot	Nov	Dec	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	Mar	Apr	May	June
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# Correspondence a.

Dear Conservation Commissions & LCIP Property Stewards,

The autumn season is officially here! With the beginning of fall last weekend, it is once again time to visit your LCIP properties and connect with conservation easement landowners. Before heading out, make sure to bring some hunter orange PPE! Hunting season opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> and will run until the end of December. For specific dates and seasons please check the Fish and Game Department website.

Please keep in mind that communication with conservation easement landowners is just as important as the monitoring visit itself. To efficiently monitor conservation properties, CLS typically asks landowners the following 4 questions prior to visiting:

- 1. What changes or activities have occurred since last year's site visit?
- 2. What changes or new activities are planned for the coming year?
- 3. Are you confident there are no encroachments along your boundaries?
- 4. Are there any other items you feel we should include in our visit?

<u>Fillable Report Forms</u> are available through our website, but we welcome you to use any type of report form that you like. Annual monitoring report submissions help keep us apprised of how the Town is doing and can inform the ways in which we approach technical support opportunities. If you are uncertain of something, please give us a call or send an email. We are happy to help wherever we can. Our updated website includes the latest version of the <u>Conservation Land</u> <u>Stewardship Guide for Municipal LCIP Properties</u>. This guide is a great resource for both municipal LCIP Property stewards and LCIP conservation easement landowners. Check it out!

Thanks for all you do,

Charlotte

P.S. Don't forget to register for the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions <u>Annual Meeting and Conference</u>! I look forward to seeing many of you there ③

# Charlotte Harding

Stewardship Specialist Conservation Land Stewardship Program 107 Pleasant Street | Concord, NH 03301 Office: (603) 271-6809 www.clsp.nh.gov

# **Correspondance b. Musquash Trail Conditions**

Bill,

I took a quick hike at Musquash today in effort to see trail conditions. About 50-100 feet away from the parking lot there's a large tree that snapped and took down 3 other trees along with it, so they're all in a row directly blocking the Colburn Trail. In general, the water level in the pond is about as high as I've ever seen it. Muddy areas persist, however I still had an enjoyable hike as the cascades were running good along the Deacon Merrill, Nash and Meetinghouse Trails. Colburn Trail definitely needs clearing maintenance within Eversource corridor. The Musquash Rd gates are open and they have pink flagging along the gravel road. The Meetinghouse trail sign post at the pond overlook is loose/leaning and maybe broken. Somebody constructed a wellbuilt teepee along the Deacon Merrill Trail at the ledge outcrop...nice job. Along the Nash trail near the Whispering Pines Trail somebody did a good job cutting a new trail to bypass the washed out portion. Even if I had more time today, I couldn't do much physical work as I pulled another back muscle yesterday.

I'm starting my new job tomorrow, so I will not have any time this week. I also have some continuing education to do at night throughout October. Regardless, I look forward to the next trail work day whenever it can be scheduled. Best, Ken

# **Correspondance c. - Invasive weed Control**

Hi Ken,

Thank you for the call and follow up email. I will provide a proposal early next week when I am in the office again.

Very busy time of year catching up on field work.

Eric

On Tue, Sep 26, 2023 at 11:29 AM Ken Dickinson <<u>kmd12@comcast.net</u>> wrote: Eric,

Please adjust the timeframe as appropriate for both treatment areas, i.e. would the knotweed need to be treated next October? We are also interested to have a half-day option and full day option for the remainder of the treatment (other invasives). Thanks, Ken

On 09/26/2023 11:06 AM EDT Ken Dickinson <<u>kmd12@comcast.net</u>> wrote:

Eric,

Have you prepared a proposal for us?

Please send via email if possible as we need to have it submitted by Oct. 5th to review at our Oct. 16th regular meeting. Call me if you have any questions or issues meeting this deadline.

FYI - I'm starting a new job on Oct. 2nd with Weston & Sampson Engineers in Manchester, NH. Thanks,

Ken Dickinson, PLA Hudson, NH Conservation Commission Member 603.402.0760

On 08/11/2023 8:24 AM EDT Eric Radlof <<u>eradlof.fcf@gmail.com</u>> wrote:

Hi Ken,

Thank you for sharing. My schedule will not allow me to get a proposal in before Monday's meeting. I will have one for you shortly after and ready for your September meeting.

Thanks again, Eric

On Thu, Aug 10, 2023 at 6:36 AM Ken Dickinson <<u>kmd12@comcast.net</u>> wrote: Eric,

As discussed last week, please find the attached draft scope of work and trail map markup for your review and proposal purposes. Please confirm that it suffices. We look forward to reviewing your proposal on Monday night if possible. Otherwise we will review your formal proposal at our September meeting. Thanks again for your advice and interest in the Musquash Conservation Area Invasive Species Control project. Best,

Ken Dickinson, PLA Hudson, NH Conservation Commission Member 603.402.0760 <u>kmd12@comcast.net</u>

--Eric Radlof

Full Circle Forestry, LLC

(603) 321-3482

--Eric Radlof

Full Circle Forestry, LLC

(603) 321-3482

# **Correspondence d. Weed Control Pricing**

Hi Ken,

Please find the following comments and pricing relating to Musquash Conservation Area Invasive Plant Control:

After reviewing Scope of Work 2023, the best way to charge for the treatment of invasive plant species is by our hourly rate (\$125/hr/man) including travel and materials. I believe we can treat the primary area and the secondary area on the same day with a two person crew and a not to exceed cost of \$3,000. This includes a foliar herbicide treatment including cut stump treatments as necessary.

As part of this treatment, we need to file a Watershed/Right-of-Way Special Permit with the Division of Pesticide Control due to the treatments taking place along public hiking trails and in close proximity to surface waters. We can complete this permit for \$250. These permits generally take a few weeks for approval.

Re: Knotweed Control Area: I recommended cutting down the knotweed in June of 2024. This work can be done by volunteers or we can conduct the work at our hourly rate of (\$125/hr/man) with a not to exceed cost of \$625. A foliar herbicide treatment can be conducted in September of 2024. This will yield the best initial control results. We can conduct the work at our hourly rate of (\$125/hr/man) with a not to exceed cost of \$1,250. A follow up treatment in 2025 is recommended.

We are booked for the remainder of 2023 and the foliar treatment season is coming to an end within the next few weeks.

I can submit an official work order if the Conservation Commission wants to move forward with the work outlined.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks again, Eric



# **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 **Brian Pinsonneault** Ken Dickinson William Collins Carl Murphy Vice-Chair X Member X Clerk X Chairman X David Morin Elvis Dhima Open Seat Linda Krisciunas Sandra Rumbaugh Town Rep\_\_\_\_ Selectman Rep X Alternate X Alternate \_ Member <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 Reclaimation 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 successful 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



# **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: September 11, 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.).

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In attendance = X Alternates Seated = S Partial Attendance = P Excused Absence = E William Collins Carl MurphyKen DickinsonVice-ChairXClerkE **Brian Pinsonneault** Ken Dickinson Chairman X Member X Sandra Rumbaugh Linda Krisciunas Open Seat David Morin Elvis Dhima Member X Alternate X Alternate Selectman Rep X Town Rep E ........... CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT 06:59 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

SEATING OF ALTERNATES: L. Krisciunas seated for K. Dickinson

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items: None

# I. New Business

a. none

# **II. Old Business**

# a. Tiger Road Acquisition Completed:

Chairman Collins shared some exciting news: Through the efforts of the HCC and Town Hall Staff, the Town has acquired 43 acres of conservation woodland on Tiger Road, which is located at the southwestern side of Robinson Pond. Weather permitting, a group picture will be taken on 9/14/2023 at 6:30 P.M. to celebrate the acquisition. Meet at the Tiger Road (from Hazelwood Road).

# b. Trail Maps - 4 to accept:

Moved by Ms. Krisciunas to accept the following conservation trail maps: Coburn Town Forest, Pelham Road Conservation Area, Benson Park, and Rangers Town Forest. Mr. Pinsonneault seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5/0/0

# c. Draft Warrant Discussion:

Chairman Collins asked members to review the town's wetlands ordinance to update and match what the practices other towns in the area have done. Specifically, the definitions of terms such as undisturbed and categories of wetlands. Also, compare the building set-back buffers and snow dumping other commissions have incorporated into their ordinances to protect wetlands and other water sources.

# d. Weed Control and Trail Improvements:

Deferred until further notice.

# **III. Other Business**

# a. Trail Work Day:

The HCC rescheduled the October trail workday to Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8:30 A.M. – 12 P.M. Area to be determined.

# **IV. Financial Status:**

As of August 2023, YTD expenses are \$400 for professional services. Chairman Collins informed members that pond clean-ups were not completed in July and August at Robinson Pond and Ottarnic Pond, therefore, there will be a larger than normal balance available in the Professional Services category. The Conservation Fund Balance is \$768,589.

# V. Correspondence:

Chairman Collins reviewed our monthly correspondence which included the following:

a) Full Circle Forestry

Mr. Radlof received 4 bids for timber harvesting at the Rangers Town Forest. Townes/T&G Pelletier had the highest bid. Moved by Mr. Pinsonneault to direct Mr. Radlof to contact

Townes/T&G Pelletier and initiate the timber harvest contract at Rangers Town Forest. Seconded by Ms. Krisciunas. Motion carried. 5/0/0

b) 3 Rangers Road

New owner is willing to sell the back portion of the property to Hudson, which is adjacent to the Rangers Town Forest. Discussion: Asbestos is on the property. Chairman Collins will contact the Town Attorney regarding the Town's liability associated with asbestos on town conservation property.

# VI. Approval of Minutes:

a. Meeting Minutes August 14, 2023 – deferred until October 2023.

# VII. Commissioner's Comments:

Selectman Morin mentioned the HFD deployed a boat for a water rescue on the new ramp at Merrifield Park. The recent improvements to the landing were appreciated. Chairman Collins will contact the Town Engineer's office to look at a few sections of the steps for additional upgrades to the area.

# VIII. Motion to adjourn:

Ms. Krisciunas moved to adjourn our regular meeting at 7:55 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Pinsonneault. Motion Carried. 5/0/0

Sandra Rumbaugh Member, Hudson Conservation Committee