



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: March 11, 2024

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> E </u>
Linda Krisciunas Alternate <u> S </u>	David Morin Selectman Rep <u> X </u>	Elvis Dhima Town Engineer <u> E </u>	

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT 07:02 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items: none

- I. **New Business:** none
- II. **Old Business:** none
- III. **Other Business**

- a. **Forestry Income:**

Chairman Collins reviewed final income received from the Rangers Town Forest Timber Harvest. Rangers Town Forest Stumpage Summary = \$28,185.45 total harvest value will be added into the Forestry Account. Approximately half of the harvest income was from White Pine. The highest value/MBF was from Red Oak (12 MBF) and Black Oak (14 MBF); however their volume was of lesser quantity than White Pine (74 MBF).

- b. **April Trail Work Day:** Sunday, April 14th, 9 AM-12 PM. Meet at location (TBD). Chariman Collins looks forward to installing timber steps at the Woodland Dr. trail entrance.

- c. **Open Space Continued Discussion:**

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Dickinson if he had performed any research last month. Mr. Dickinson noted that he looked further at the list regarding parcels in the northern portion of Hudson. There are at least five contiguous parcels that are over 15 acres in size each. These parcels are located in the vicinity of Robinson Pond and Boyd Road. Some parcels are landlocked, contain substantial wetlands, or have access issues due to steep slopes or another reason. This is in effort to inquire about their long term plans for their property and have them understand the value of a potential group effort to preserve open space and protect the Robinson Pond watershed area. Mr. Dickinson mentioned that it might be a good idea to invite these landowners to a meeting in effort to discuss this opportunity. Mr. Collins noted that the Commission has done a good job of preserving land along the southern portion of Robinson Pond and he would be in favor to concentrate efforts to preserve land in the northern of Robinson Pond. After further discussion, Mr. Collins agreed to draft a letter to each large parcel land owner that is listed on pg. 17 of the 2012 Open Space Master Plan. Mr. Dickinson noted these parcels as the Commission had not recently considered them. Preservation opportunities should be evaluated throughout Town as part of the Open Space Master Plan update. Mr. Collins stated that he would focus on land parcels that are near either Robinson Pond or Musquash Conservation Area. Mr. Dickinson will begin working on updating an excel spreadsheet as time allows including merging Mr. Collins database with the other databases that were included in the 2012 Open Space Master Plan.

- d. **Newspaper Article:**

Chairman Collins submitted a news article that was published in February's local newspaper. It included Mr. Pinsonneault's wood duck box project and our recent trail work day. Mr. Collins asked if it was acceptable to submit future articles and all members determined it to be generally acceptable.

- e. **Pond Treatments:**

Chairman Collins noted that grant contracts/paperwork had been received from NHDES recently regarding Milfoil and Fanwort herbicide treatments at both Robinson and Ottarnic Ponds. Solitude anticipates performing treatments in June and July. Town of Hudson contribution for professional services is approx. \$36,000. Mr. Collins noted that he had extreme difficulty paddling at Ottarnic

Pond last summer due to the extreme level of invasive weed growth. Mr. Dickinson noted that he spoke with a landowner who lives on Robinson Pond while hiking around it. They are actively using Robinson Pond throughout the year and care about its water quality. Mr. Dickinson expressed that it would be a good year to perform treatments early in the season as it has been generally warmer and wetter than usual. Although the cost is higher now, it has been at least two years since any herbicide treatment has been performed. Mr. Collins noted that plans and maps for both ponds are forthcoming.

IV. Financial Status:

Conservation Fund Balance = \$780,884. Forestry Fund Balance = approx. \$44,000.

V. Correspondence:

Chairman Collins reviewed our monthly correspondence which included the following:

- a) NHACC Saving Special Places =4/6/2024
- b) How to Follow a State Bill
- c) Carbon Harvesting Commodities (general discussion)
- d) Hudson Chamber of Commerce = NH Business Review Article
- e) Letter of Acknowledgement from SPNHF for our recent donation
- f) Notice of Maintenance (moving activities) along gas line corridor for 70 Rangers Drive and Windham Rd. scheduled for March and April.
- g) NH Lakes Program annual contribution request:
Motion by Ms. Krisciunas to contribute \$100.00 from our “Associaton Dues and Fees” budget line item, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Motion Carried 4/0/0

VI. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Krisciunas moved to accept the February 12, 2024 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Motion Carried 4/0/0

VII. Commissioner’s Comments:

Selectman Morin reminded everyone of the importance of our Town voting day tomorrow.

Ms. Krisciunas inquired if we had enough money in our professional services line item to pay for the proposed herbicide treatments at both ponds and the herbicide treatment at Musquash Conservation Area. Mr. Collins responded that the Town is committed to the pond treatment work and has a 50/50 split with the State for these services. The HCC is not currently committed to the treatments at Musquash Conservation Area. The HCC will most likely carry a negative balance for a short period of time for the pond treatment work; however that is a regular occurrence as the work carries over to the next fiscal year. Ms. Krisciunas reminded everyone that we need to contact Full Circle Forestry soon to schedule work at Musquash Conservation Area. Chairman Collins also noted that maintenance can also be paid for using

our Conservation Fund account if needed.

Mr. Dickinson asked if Ms. Smagula had provided any grant updates for the NHDES Aquatics Invasive Species program. Chairman Collins noted that NHDES is currently working on invasive species treatment plans for both Robinson and Ottarnic Ponds. 50% grant award for this work will be forthcoming for review in March.

Mr. Dickinson noted that Ottarnic Pond is also a Great Pond. Although it is smaller in size, it is an equally important resource as Robinson Pond.

Chairman Collins noted that we may have a new member in April. Ticks are out and check your pets.

VIII. Motion to adjourn:

Mr. Murphy moved to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:09 PM; seconded by Ms. Krisciunas.

Motion Carried 4/0/0

Ken Dickinson

Ken Dickinson, Clerk