

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monday, March 9, 2020
Hooksett Municipal Building
Town Council Chambers

Cindy Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Present: Cindy Robertson-Chair, David Ross-Vice Chair (arrived at 5:18pm), JoCarol Woodburn-Member, Phil Fitandes-Member, Deborah Miville-Member, Robert Better-Alternate,

Not Present: William Herlicka- Alternate, David Hess-Alternate, John Pieroni-Alternate

Staff: Leann Fuller, Administrative Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

I. Public Input

Mike Horne, Co-Chair of Hooksett Kiwanis Trail Committee spoke about the Heads Pond trail. The Kiwanis is looking at maintenance items for the Heads Pond trail. One item includes removing the leaves off the trail to try and keep the organics off the stone dust to keep the grass from coming up through. They plan to clean out the drainage on the side of the trail between Pleasant Street and Route 3 as it is a mosquito pit. The Kiwanis does have some funds in their budget this year and Mike would like to try and make the trail more handicap accessible. Mike is working with Earl, Public Work Director and Phil, Parks and Recreation to look at the back side of the berm and come in with a 5-7% grade to make it easier for wheelchairs. Mike and Al Stein have reached out to the Carriage Hill Homeowners Association as well. The Kiwanis are excited to see the Stewardship Plan next month to see if the Kiwanis and the Conservation Commission can work together more closely. Another item they hope to do is to spruce up the kiosk and benches. The Scouts have signs back in place, but they do look very repaired. The new and old do not blend in well.

Cindy Robertson thanked Mike and the Kiwanis' help in maintaining the Heads Pond Trail.

JoCarol Woodburn mentioned that the Conservation Commission may be able to come up with something like what was put at the kiosk at the Hooksett Riverwalk Trail.

Mike Horne also mentioned that Kiwanis is discussing possible ways to make it very clear the trail is "Carry In, Carry Out".

II. Consent Agenda

- i. Transfer from the People's Conservation Account to Town's General Account

JoCarol Woodburn motioned to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by Deborah Miville. Motion passed.

III. Meeting Minutes Approvals

- February 10, 2020

47 **Deborah Miville motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2020, seconded by Phil**
48 **Fitanides.**

49 Line 179- spelling error: lop should say loop.

50 **Motion passed.**

51
52 -Non-Public February 10, 2020

53
54 **JoCarol Woodburn motioned to approve the non-public meeting minutes from February 10, 2020, seconded**
55 **by Phil Fitanides.**

56 Spelling error: Matter should say Matt.

57 **Motion passed.**

58
59 **IV. Appointments**

- 60 i. Steve Couture, Bear-Paw Conservation Consultant
61 Agricultural use of Farmland
62

63 Between the previous meeting and now, Steve Couture continued his discussions with Mr. LaValley. Mr.
64 LaValley went to the site and determined there is no access he can use. Any existing town access is not wide
65 enough for a farm tractor. The current user has an agreement with the landowner on the Allenstown side, so
66 he can access the field through Allenstown. There are options remaining:

- 67
68 1. Amend the License with Mr. Pritchard. This amendment could include a fee for the use of the corn field
69 and that fee could be used to have the additional fields maintained (mowed). And/or have another
70 conversation with Mr. Pritchard and clarify what the Town is looking for in return for the use of the
71 field.
72 2. Negotiate a Right of Way agreement through the Mason Property. Dave Hess is adamantly opposed to
73 that approach.
74 3. Redesign the current bridge crossing installed near the Therrien right of way to make it wider. That
75 would involve an expense and amendment to the wetlands permit. This is not an ideal alternative.
76 4. Another access point is with the Brown property. There is an actual Right of Way through that
77 property. It is an existing gravel road, but it is steep and eroded.
78

79 Cindy Robertson stated that based on the options, she believes it is worth going back and having a
80 conversation with Mr. Pritchard. Phil Fitanides recommended getting the schools involved as an additional
81 option to allow classes to be taught in the fields. Steve Couture mentioned that without its own access point,
82 there is not a lot of options aside from going back to the current user. Also, the issue with imposing a
83 revocation clause would be the enforcement. A fee would allow use of the field and maintenance of the other
84 fields. Steve Couture is willing to have the conversation with Mr. Pritchard. Steve also mentioned including
85 some type of language that could rescind access to the property if the other fields are not mowed by a specific
86 date.
87

88 Cindy Robertson brought up that she received an email about the local Boy Scouts troop wanting to adopt
89 conservation land. Steve suggested Clay Pond because there is a lot to be done out there. They could partner
90 very well with Bear-Paw. They would clean it up, pick up trash and maybe some trail work with Bear-Paw.
91 There could also be something included on the kiosk notifying the public that the trail was "adopted by" by
92 the Boy Scout troop.

93 Cindy informed the Conservation Commission that Bear-Paw is having a beer tasting event by Northwoods
94 Brewing Company on Saturday, March 14 at 2pm-4pm.

95
96 **V. Other business: Projects, Invoices, Etc.**

97 i. CIP Request (Due April 2nd)

98 The Conservation Commission would like to continue with the current plan with changes to the description of
99 the Merrimack Riverwalk Trail project to include that Phase III is anticipated to begin in 2021 with an
100 estimated cost of \$320,949.51.

101
102 ii. University Heights/Town Pond/School District/Carriage Manor Stewardship Plan

103 Jeff Littleton will be attending the April meeting to review the Stewardship Plan with the Conservation
104 Commission. Steve and Cindy will then present the plan to the School Board at their May 5th meeting. A public
105 hearing will follow the May 11th Conservation Commission meeting at the Hooksett Library.

106
107 iii. Stantec Invoice \$294.00

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109 ***Deborah Miville made a motion to approve payment of the Stantec Invoice in the amount of \$294.00,***
110 ***seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.***

111
112 Cindy Robertson was at the Riverwalk and noted that they have done the seeding over the loam off
113 Merrimack Street. Stantec held back money and will make sure it takes.

114
115 iv. Hooksett Heritage Month (May)

116 The Conservation Commission previously discussed having a grand opening of Phase II and because of the
117 historic nature of Phase II, it would be beneficial to incorporate into the Hooksett Heritage Month of May. This
118 will be on the April agenda to decide on a date and what should be done. All the funders should be invited.
119 There will be a press release, invitation and social media notification.

120
121 ***Deborah Miville motioned to participate in Hooksett Heritage Month of May by having a formal grand***
122 ***opening of Phase II of the Hooksett Riverwalk Project, seconded by Cindy Robertson. Motion passed.***

123
124 *David Ross arrived at 5:18pm.*

125
126 v. Conservation Easement boundary signs update

127 Leann updated the Conservation Commission regarding the boundary markers order. The Sign Gallery, Inc has
128 not been responsive regarding the order. The last communication as December 30, 2019. Leann will continue
129 to try for the next week. From there, it may be back to square one with new quotes from other companies.

130
131 vi. Boy Scouts Adopt-a-Trail

132 Discussed earlier while Steve Couture was present.

133
134 vii. Bear-Paw Invoice \$1,037.50

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136 ***David Ross made a motion to approve the February Bear-Paw invoice in the amount of \$1,037.50, seconded***
137 ***by JoCarol Woodburn. Motion passed.***

139 David Ross stated that Bennett Nelson was supposed to come back in and go over the details of the bridge
140 project. Cindy Robertson concurred. Leann will review the video.

141
142 JoCarol Woodburn asked Cindy if she heard anything back from Dan Tatem regarding getting the Merrimack
143 Riverwalk map updated as it has incorrect property lines. JoCarol asked if the Riverwalk signs were ordered
144 and they were.

145
146 ***Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn, seconded by David Ross. Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm***

147
148 ***Minutes respectively submitted by***

149
150
151 ***Leann Fuller***
152 ***Administrative Assistant***

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154

Please see subsequent meeting minutes for any amendments to these minutes.
