

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monday, September 14, 2020
Hooksett Municipal Building
Town Council Chambers

Cindy Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Present: Cindy Robertson-Chair, David Ross-Vice Chair, JoCarol Woodburn-Member, Phil Fitanides-Member, Deborah Miville-Member, William Herlicka- Alternate, Alex Walczyk- Town Council Representative

Not Present: Robert Better-Alternate, John Pieroni-Alternate

Staff: Leann Fuller, Administrative Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

I. Meeting Minutes Approvals
- August 10, 2020

David Ross motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 10, 2020 as amended, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn.

David Ross expressed that he did want the minutes to reflect that he congratulated and thanked Mr. Nelson for his work on the bridge. David was very impressed.

David Ross also mentioned that even though the meeting minutes reflect that the Conservation Commission voted and sent a request to the Zoning Board for a larger culvert for the Goffstown Road wetland crossing for a private driveway, it was not mentioned by the Zoning Board. David felt this was a misrepresentation of the Conservation Commission’s comments.

Motion passed.

II. Appointments

- i. Bruce Thomas, Town Engineer
Permit by Notification for South Bow Road Dry Hydrant Replacement

Bruce Thomas presented a Wetland Permit by Notification application. The Fire Department requested a dry hydrant replacement permit be obtained for a hydrant on South Bow Road. Bruce was missing the NH National Heritage Bureau report which he expected any day. The hydrant is located at the back of a turnaround in a gravel area. Bruce believes this is being replaced due to age. He also included Best Management Practices in the application included erosion control measures.

David Ross stated that the hydrant’s old cast steel pipe only lasts so long. If the Fire Department were to attach to it, it could bust off.

46 **David Ross made a motion to request that the Conservation Commission Chair signs the Wetlands Permit by**
47 **Notification for a dry hydrant replacement off South Bow Road, seconded by Deborah Miville. Motion**
48 **passed.**
49

50 Bruce Thomas will send along the NH National Heritage Bureau report once received. Bruce also updated the
51 Conservation Commission and let them know that he did send in a Shoreline Permit for the Lamberts Park
52 Pavilion if the Conservation Commission would like to see that. It is nowhere near the water.
53

54 JoCarol Woodburn thanked Bruce for his work on the grant. It was very successful. Bruce did the maps and
55 was able to get a letter of support from Southern NH Planning Commission.
56

57 Cindy Robertson informed all members that the Hooksett Conservation Commission did get the \$80,000 RTP
58 Grant.
59

60 **III. Invoices**

- 61 i. Stantec Invoice for Survey and As-Builts \$3,877.25
62

63 **David Ross made a motion to approve the Stantec Invoice for the survey and as-builts for \$3,877.25,**
64 **seconded by JoCarol Woodburn. Motion passed.**
65

- 66 ii. Stantec Invoice for Final Payment Requisition for Solid Earth Technologies \$5,244.58
67

68 **David Ross made a motion to pay the final payment requisition to Solid Earth Technologies in the amount of**
69 **\$5,244.58, seconded by Deborah Miville. Motion passed.**
70

71 **IV. Projects, Events, Etc.**

- 72
73 i. Conservation Commission Gathering with Bear-Paw

74 Cindy Robertson explained that Bear-Paw wants to get their Conservation Commissions together via Zoom to
75 discuss various topics. Cindy planned on attending unless another member would like to. Steve Couture will be
76 in attendance as well as he works for Bear-Paw.
77

- 78 ii. NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference

79 Deborah Miville was thinking about this as she attends every year. The meeting is not until November 7 via
80 Zoom, this will be added to the October 19 agenda for further discussion.
81

- 82 iii. "No Motorized Vehicles" signs for Conservation properties
83

84 **David Ross made a motion to allow the purchase and installation of 2 signs not to exceed \$300.00, the signs**
85 **are to depict restricted use of motorized vehicles, seconded by Phil Fitandes. Motion passed.**
86

- 87 iv. Field Management Plan for Riverwalk Trail

88 Cindy Robertson referenced the letters received from residents regarding the mowing of Riverwalk fields. The
89 Town has an agreement with an individual to mow the fields as he uses them for hay. This has been done for
90 the past 5 years. Cindy reached out to Naomi with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests earlier this year
91 as they had discussed the milkweed and the Monarch Butterflies. Naomi referred Cindy to the UNH
92 Cooperative Extension who in turn referred to IBIS Wildlife Consulting or Jeff Littleton with Moosewood

93 Ecological to assist in putting together a Habitat Management Plan. The Conservation Commission has one
94 from 2013, it just needs to be updated.

95
96 David Ross requested that the gentleman who is mowing the fields be involved with the process as he uses it
97 for hay. Cindy Robertson clarified that when the work begins on the Habitat Management Plan, they will have
98 the agreement as well.

99
100 Cindy Robertson also mentioned that they had complaints from abutters about the mowing and were asking
101 when it was going to be done. Moving forward, there will be professional assistance and there will be specific
102 “prime times” outlined for when to mow.

103
104 ***Cindy Robertson made a motion to request that Steve Couture continue discussions regarding hiring a***
105 ***consultant for the development of a Habitat Management Plan for the Riverwalk Trail, seconded by JoCarol***
106 ***Woodburn.***

107
108 Deborah Miville asked if the current plan has anything about mowing in it. Cindy Robertson said that she has
109 not read it completely yet, but it does need to be amended.

110
111 David Ross stated that it is part of the agriculture use of the property. The individual is using it for hay.

112
113 Cindy Robertson strongly encourages any of the public to attend the Conservation Commission meetings. The
114 agreement was discussed and awarded to a new gentleman last year.

115
116 ***Motion passed.***

117
118 v. Status and next steps for University Heights Parking Access

119 Leann Fuller updated the Conservation Commission on this topic. There is a parcel located within the
120 University Heights development labeled as public use on map 14, lot 1-17. Steve Couture brought this up
121 because a new townhome development is going in one of the vacant lots in that development and he
122 happened to notice this lot. The plan for this piece of property was to create a parking area to allow access to
123 the conservation land directly abutting it. Leann Fuller was in contact with Mr. Jeffrey Burd about this
124 property. Mr. Burd recalled that none of the public use parcels have been conveyed to the Town yet. The
125 Town is supposed to pay fair market value for the parcels. Green View Management had attempted to convey
126 several of them a few years back but did not agree with the Towns valuation. Leann continued research and
127 found an agreement that does not state this property is to be conveyed to the town at no cost.

128
129 Deborah Miville asked for clarity of where this property is located relative to the land set aside for a possible
130 playground. Leann stated it is not the same property.

131
132 Alex Walczyk asked if it is a purchase fee or recurrent fee? Cindy Robertson clarified it is a purchase fee.

133
134 Deborah Miville asked why the Town would want the parcel. Cindy Robertson clarified that the reason is
135 because it was going to be a trail head to access the open space behind the University Heights development.
136 David Ross stated that it is wet back and it is part of their master plan; it does not mean that the Town must
137 purchase it.

139 David Ross requested more information for this topic. Cindy Robertson would like this on the October meeting
140 to continue discussions with more information.

141
142 vi. Head’s Pond Stewardship Plan presentation to the School Board on September 15, 2020

143
144 Cindy Robertson and Swift Corwin will be presenting the draft of the Stewardship Plan to the School Board on
145 Tuesday, September 15, 2020. The School board owns a piece of the property within the Stewardship plan.
146 They will have the opportunity to ask questions, but they may focus on liability as that was their main concern.
147 The Stewardship plan does not specify the trail locations, it is an inventory of what is on the property and
148 what is of value and needs to be protected. Cindy Robertson recommended planning for the public hearing in
149 November and go to Council in December.

150
151 **OTHER BUSINESS:**

152
153 1. 39 Hackett Hill Road Site Walk

154 Leann Fuller mentioned that the Conservation Commission was invited to a site walk with the Zoning Board
155 and Planning Board at 39 Hackett Hill Road on Tuesday, September 22 at 5pm. This site walk is to review the
156 industrial warehouse plan that is being put forward. So far, the engineer team has presented conceptual plans
157 to the Economic Development Committee, requested a Variance and Excavation Permit from the Zoning Board
158 and is presenting a conceptual design to the Planning Board this evening. Whenever an excavation permit is
159 submitted to the Zoning Board, the Conservation Commission is to be notified.

160
161 2. Dragonflies and Mosquitos

162 Phil Fitanides has proposed bringing dragonflies to Town for assist with mosquitos instead of spraying. Cindy
163 Robertson mentioned that the Conservation Commission does not have the authority to authorize money for
164 this without documentation. David Ross mentioned that the Health Officer would have to bring that to Town
165 Council, but the Conservation Commission could recommend it. Bill Herlicka does think it is an interesting idea
166 to formulate as an alternative to chemical use. However, the severe drought this year has impacted the
167 mosquito and tick population so this summer would have been wasted money. Cindy Robertson requested
168 that if Phil is serious about it, the Conservation Commission needs specific details such as numbers, costs,
169 impacts, name of company, how it has worked in other towns and the amount per square feet of the town. Bill
170 Herlicka would like to know the labs quality control process, so they know the dragonflies are not bringing in
171 any infections. Dragonflies won’t bite but they are food for another animals.

172
173 3. Trash Barrels on Conservation Properties

174 Phil Fitanides asked about the signs for “Carry in and Carry Out” and where they are located. JoCarol
175 Woodburn stated that there are signs on the Riverwalk Trail head and the Heads Pond trail head. Phil Fitanides
176 said there are a lot of dog bags not being carried out. Cindy Robertson was there two days ago, and the trail
177 was clean. Deborah Miville stated that the Parks and Recreation asked DPW to put a trash can at the
178 Merrimack Riverwalk Trail attached at the kiosk. JoCarol stated that it is a bad location, the smell is awful.
179 Cindy Robertson stated that it is overflowing, and the trash is going down the ramp and could go into the river.
180 There is another trash can further down the trail. JoCarol Woodburn recalled a conversation that DPW was
181 going to put a dog trash can with baggies temporarily by the Riverwalk Trail while the dog park was closed.
182 David Ross mentioned that this has been discussed and trash cans invite nuisance animals and trash. Cindy
183 Robertson reiterated that the Conservation Commission does not maintain trash on the trails. No trails around
184 the state are maintained for trash.

186 **David Ross made a motion to direct DPW to remove and prohibit the installation of any barrels on**
187 **conservation land, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn.**
188

189 Cindy Robertson was concerned that if it is a private citizen's barrel, that DPW does not throw it out. It is being
190 done in the best interest to keep the trail clean. Cindy would like DPW to contact the individual who has the
191 barrels on the trails prior to throwing them out.

192
193 **Roll Call:**

194 **JoCarol Woodburn: Aye**

195 **Phil Fitanides: Aye**

196 **Alex Walczyk: Nay**

197 **Deborah Miville: Nay**

198 **David Ross: Aye**

199 **Cindy Robertson: Aye**

200 **Motion passed 4-2**
201

202 Cindy Robertson requested that when the directive is sent to DPW, to express the intent is to reach out to this
203 person before they throw out the barrels. Also, place a garbage over by the Dog Park so it is off Conservation's
204 land.

205
206 Deborah Miville understands the concerns from the Conservation Commission, but the discussion was taken
207 up with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and she would like to bring the information back to them.
208

209 Cindy Robertson clarified that moving forward, it is Conservation land. Anyone should come before the
210 Commission before putting anything out there. There is a formal process.
211

212 David Ross clarified that a precedent has been set. People came to the Conservation Commission to install the
213 QR codes on the trail. There should be anything installed on public property without permission.
214

215 Cindy Robertson understands that their heart was in the right place, but this is Conservation protected land.
216 The public tends to not understand that there are restrictions on these properties and the Town must answer
217 to that.
218

219 **4. Merrimack Riverwalk Kiosk Panels**

220 JoCarol Woodburn updated the Conservation Commission regarding the replacement panels for the Riverwalk
221 Trail kiosk. They were supposed to be done a month ago, but they are going to be ready tomorrow. JoCarol
222 will pick them up and install them. She also has the new boundary map ready as well. Cindy Robertson stated
223 that Ms. Smith did request some changes to prevent people from being on her private property, The
224 Conservation Commission has now lowered the signs to eye level and changed the boundary map per her
225 request. JoCarol also made a sign to contact the Town if anyone would like any announcements to put in the
226 kiosk, per Deborah Miville's suggestion.
227

228 **Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Meeting adjourned at 5:19pm.**
229

230 **Minutes respectively submitted by**
231
232

233 **Leann Fuller**
234 **Administrative Assistant**

235
236

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