

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monday, October 19, 2020
Hooksett Municipal Building
Town Council Chambers

Cindy Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:07pm.

Present: Cindy Robertson-Chair, JoCarol Woodburn-Member, Phil Fitanides-Member, Deborah Miville-Member, John Pieroni-Alternate, William Herlicka- Alternate, Alex Walczyk-Town Council Representative (via Zoom)

Not Present: David Ross-Vice Chair, Robert Better-Alternate

Staff: Leann Fuller, Administrative Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

I. Consent Agenda

- i. Wetlands Permit-by-Notification for Nancy Smith
- ii. State of NH Shoreland Permit by Notification for NHDOT bridge maintenance project

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

Roll Call #1

Phil Fitanides: Yes

JoCarol Woodburn: Yes

Deborah Miville: Yes

Alex Walczyk: Yes

Cindy Robertson: Yes

Motion passed.

II. Meeting Minutes Approvals

- September 14, 2020

JoCarol Woodburn motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 14th, 2020 as drafted, seconded by Deborah Miville.

Roll Call #2

Phil Fitanides: Yes

JoCarol Woodburn: Yes

Deborah Miville: Yes

Alex Walczyk: Yes

Cindy Robertson: Yes

47 **Motion passed.**

48
49 **III. Appointments**

- 50 i. Steve Couture, Bear-Paw Consultant
- 51 • Hooksett Riverwalk Habitat Management Plan
 - 52 • University Heights Parking Access
 - 53 • Other business
- 54

55 Steve Couture will join the meeting around 5:00pm. This will be pushed to further into the meeting. Cindy
56 clarified that University Heights Parking Access discussion will require more information. Cindy recommended
57 moving this item to the November meeting. The members of the Conservation Commission agreed.

- 58
59 ii. Joseph Paredez, Hooksett Kiwanis
60 Donation of 2 benches for the Merrimack Riverwalk Trail

61
62 Joe was unable to obtain enough information to present to the Conservation Commission tonight. He will
63 contact Leann once he is able to gain additional information.

64
65 **IV. Invoices**

- 66 i. Bear-Paw August and September 2020 Stewardship Invoices

67
68 **JoCarol Woodburn made a motion to approve Bear-Paw invoice #10212 in the amount of \$900.00 for August**
69 **and September stewardship work, seconded by Deborah Miville.**

70
71 **Roll Call #3**

72 **Phil Fitandes: Yes**

73 **JoCarol Woodburn: Yes**

74 **Deborah Miville: Yes**

75 **Alex Walczyk: Yes**

76 **Cindy Robertson: Yes**

77
78 **Motion passed.**

- 79
80 ii. WorkSafe Invoice for 2 “No Motorized Vehicles” signs with posts and hardware \$172.80

81
82 **JoCarol Woodburn made a motion to approve the WorkSafe invoice for 2 “No Motorized Vehicles” signs**
83 **with posts and hardware in the amount of \$172.80, seconded by Deborah Miville.**

84
85 Deborah Miville asked if “electric bikes” can be used on the trails. Cindy stated that this is one of those brand
86 new items for discussion. The concerns are the speed because they can go faster. Cindy recommended
87 speaking with Bear-Paw and the NH Association for Conservation Commissions to see how they have handled
88 those.

89
90 Bill Herlicka explained his thoughts on E-Bikes. Technically, they count as a motor vehicle just like an electric
91 Harley Davidson counts as a motorcycle. The torque of the electric motor is what digs up the dirt as they start.

92
93 John Pieroni has been seeing speed limit signs on trails.

94
95 **Roll Call #4**

96 **Phil Fitanides: Yes**

97 **JoCarol Woodburn: Yes**

98 **Deborah Miville: Yes**

99 **Alex Walczyk: Yes**

100 **Cindy Robertson: Yes**

101
102 **Motion passed.**

103
104 iii. Portland Glass Invoice for 2 new panels for the Merrimack Riverwalk Kiosk \$180.00

105
106 JoCarol Woodburn explained that this invoice is for the plexiglass panels on the Hooksett Riverwalk Trail kiosk.
107 The left and right panel were replaced. The original quote was for \$200.00 but because they were late getting
108 the panels in, they gave a 10% discount. The panels have been installed and look great. There is also a new
109 trail map as well. Cindy Robertson mentioned that Nancy Smith did express her appreciation for the new map
110 as well as lowering the signs to eye level.

111
112 **Deborah Miville made a motion to approve the Portland Glass invoice for 2 new panels for the Merrimack**
113 **Riverwalk Kiosk in the amount of \$180.00, seconded by Phil Fitanides.**

114
115 **Roll Call #5**

116 **Phil Fitanides: Yes**

117 **JoCarol Woodburn: Yes**

118 **Deborah Miville: Yes**

119 **Alex Walczyk: Yes**

120 **Cindy Robertson: Yes**

121
122 **Motion passed.**

123
124 iv. NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Dues \$650.00

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126 **JoCarol Woodburn made a motion to approve payment of the Annual Dues to the NH Association of**
127 **Conservation Commissions in the amount of \$650.00, seconded by Deborah Miville.**

128
129 Phil Fitanides asked what the annual dues pays for. Cindy Robertson stated that it is for legislative work, the
130 annual meeting and support to name a few.

131
132 **Roll Call #6**

133 **Phil Fitanides: Yes**

134 **JoCarol Woodburn: Yes**

135 **Deborah Miville: Yes**

136 **Alex Walczyk: Yes**

137 **Cindy Robertson: Yes**

138
139 **Motion passed.**

141 **V. Projects, Events, Etc.**

142 i. NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference

143
144 This year is a virtual meeting. Deborah Miville mentioned that they have narrowed down the topics as well,
145 but it would be good for people who are new the Conservation Commission. Deborah has decided not to
146 attend this year. John Pieroni may be interested.

147
148 ii. Bear-Paw Conservation Commission Gathering: Tuesday, October 20th from 1pm-4pm

149
150 Cindy Robertson is unable to attend. Cindy did ask Katrina about Zoom and Katrina could do it by phone for
151 the first hour and hear what is going on. Leann will send the information to Bill Herlicka who is able to attend
152 via phone.

153
154 iii. Head's Pond Stewardship Plan- Next steps: Mark the Conservation boundaries and public
155 hearing

156
157 Cindy Robertson updated the Conservation Commission on her meeting with the School Board. Swift Corwin
158 was in attendance as well. Previously, the School Board's main concern was liability. The School Board's
159 biggest concern is they don't want any steps taken that will affect their ownership or what they may want to
160 do with the parcel in the future. Cindy informed them the Stewardship Plan is just to let them know what is on
161 their property. Swift did see a lot of ATV damage on that property. Primarily due to new communities. Swift
162 does recommend marking the Conservation properties with boundary markers. Cindy did reach out to Steve to
163 see if Bear-Paw could install those markers. Currently, there is no delineation between land boundaries. Bill
164 Herlicka liked the idea of the medallion markers but also recommended putting a letter out to the
165 neighborhoods as well. This will make them aware that this property is around them and ATV use is not
166 permitted.

167
168 Cindy Robertson recommended reviewing the easements more in depth to make sure ATV use is prohibited.
169 Cindy also stated that the public meeting is intended to hear what the abutters have to say about the area.

170
171 iv. Mosquitos

172
173 Phil Fitanides explained that there are two towns in Maine that use dragonflies to assist with taking care of
174 mosquitos. Phil has tested it out and ordered some dragonflies and was impressed. The dragonflies are not
175 invasive. The dragonflies would come in stages, so they are hatching constantly. Phil did not know how long
176 they last. They do have to be ordered ahead of time. Phil thought it was around \$30,000 per season.

177
178 Cindy Robertson requested that Phil send a link to Leann. It would be beneficial to contact those Town's
179 conservation department and find out what they did and how they carried this out.

180
181 Cindy Robertson asked Alex Walczyk about his conversation with Earl Labonte regarding bees and spraying.
182 Alex stated that the pesticides are heavily controlled substances that require special permits and licenses to
183 apply the products including a special supervisor. The Town of Hooksett does not do the spraying. Alex
184 recommended checking with Earl or André whether the fields are sprayed or not.

185
186 John Pieroni recommended finding communities that are not large salt marshes as Wells and Ogunquit are
187 and not on the coast.

188
189 v. 2021 Meeting Schedule
190

191 Leann Fuller supplied the 2021 meeting schedule. The only meeting that has a conflict due to a Holiday is the
192 October meeting. The Conservation Commission agreed to schedule the October meeting to October 18 at
193 4:00pm as Planning Board will follow that meeting.
194

195 ***Cindy Robertson made a motion to approve the 2021 meeting schedule as amended, seconded by JoCarol***
196 ***Woodburn.***

197
198 ***Roll Call #7***

199 ***Phil Fitanides: Yes***

200 ***JoCarol Woodburn: Yes***

201 ***Deborah Miville: Yes***

202 ***Alex Walczyk: Yes***

203 ***Cindy Robertson: Yes***
204

205 ***Motion passed.***
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207 **VI. Appointment**

208 i. Steve Couture, Bear-Paw Consultant

- 209 • Hooksett Riverwalk Habitat Management Plan
210

211 Steve Couture, Contractor for Bear-Paw, spoke about the fields on the Merrimack Riverfront property. At the
212 last meeting, there was some conversation about them, and the Commission formalized the process. Steve
213 recalls that the mowing of the fields was an ad-hoc item just for the fields to be mowed. In the last
214 Conservation Commission meeting, Steve noticed in the minutes that the fields were being hayed and used for
215 agricultural purposes. Steve wanted to inform the Conservation Commission that they are just being mowed,
216 they are not being used for hay. At that meeting, the Commission did authorize Bear-Paw to investigate
217 developing a plan for managing the fields. Steve did supply an estimate from Osprey Ecological Services, Tom
218 Brightman who is a former employee of the NH Fish and Game. Tom specifically working with habitat
219 management in agricultural purposes. Steve is seeking approval form the Conservation Commission to
220 approve scope of work which will be under the existing Bear-Paw contract Stewardship contract with
221 Hooksett. There is a site walk scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 10:30am. Tom would evaluate the
222 fields and come up with recommendations. The contract does note that the recommendations would be
223 delivered prior to the December 2020 Conservation Commission meeting. The cost could be less than \$750
224 depending on the amount of time spent in the field.
225

226 JoCarol Woodburn asked if the recommendation would include the best timeframe to mow the property and
227 minimize the impact to species?
228

229 Steve Couture stated that it would specify the time of year. It could be used as the basis on hiring a specialist
230 to implement the recommendations.
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232 Phil Fitanides left the room at 5:07pm.

233 John Pieroni was appointed to vote in Phil's absence.
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Cindy Robertson motioned to approve moving forward with Bear-Paw contracting with Osprey Ecological Services regarding the Hooksett meadow property in an amount not to exceed \$750, seconded by Alex Walczyk.

Roll Call #8

- John Pieroni: Yes**
- JoCarol Woodburn: Yes**
- Deborah Miville: Yes**
- Alex Walczyk: Yes**
- Cindy Robertson: Yes**

Motion passed.

Phil entered the room at 5:10pm

Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn at 5:12pm, seconded by Phil Fitanides.

Roll Call #9

- Phil Fitanides: Yes**
- JoCarol Woodburn: Yes**
- Deborah Miville: Yes**
- Alex Walczyk: Yes**
- Cindy Robertson: Yes**

Motion passed.

Minutes respectively submitted by

**Leann Fuller
Administrative Assistant**

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