

**HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Monday, November 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, Deborah Miville-Member, Phil Fitanides-Member (arrived at 4:36pm), Robert Better-Alternate, William Herlicka- Alternate, Alex Walczyk, Town Council Representative

**Not Present:** JoCarol Woodburn-Member, John Pieroni-Alternate

**Staff:** Leann Fuller, Administrative Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**I. Consent Agenda**

- i. Bear-Paw Print

***David Ross motioned to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by Deborah Miville. Motion passed.***

**II. Meeting Minutes Approvals**

- October 19, 2020

***Alex Walczyk motioned to approve the meeting minutes from October 19, 2020, seconded by Deborah Miville.***

***David Ross noted a typo on page 4, line 168 of the minutes. "Cindy Robertson recommended reviewing the easements more in depth to make sure ATV use is prohibited." It should say "ATV use". Motion passed.***

**III. Appointments**

- i. Rue Teel, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways  
 Quimby Mountain Maintenance and update on Bear-Paw Conservation Roundtable session

Rue Teel discussed the Bear-Paw Conservation roundtable discussion. There were representatives from 7 out of 11 towns. The discussion included closing Class VI roads or downgrading them into trails and keeping ATV's off Conservation properties. Everyone agreed that ATV's are a serious problem this year as well as unsafe target shooting. Rue transitioned into a discussion regarding the Quimby Mountain property. She did provide photos of the property along with options on how to proceed. The "No Motorized Vehicles" signs are up. Rue supplied a plan showing three different trails on the Quimby Mountain property. The purple trail is an old homestead road. The blue is unclear whether it is an approved trail or not. These were created during the homestead era as there is a rocky bridge created. The red trail is the more recent trail created by abutters. Bear-Paw did post a game camera and there has been no further ATV use. The stone wall has not been replaced but Rue would like to take care of that. Rue reviewed the picture showing that there is target shooting happening on the property and it is harming the environment including shooting trees in half.

47 David Ross asked which direction the shooting is going. Rue said it is Southeast. They are shooting downhill in  
48 the direction of the trail. Shooting into the woods with nothing to stop the rounds is a safety issue. There are  
49 two tree stands that need to be removed. Rue also mentioned that is a lot of invasive Bittersweet on the  
50 property. Rue would like the invasive infestation removed as it is deforming and harming many trees. The  
51 vines are thick, and trees are being forced to ground around them. The removal of the Bittersweet would  
52 require chemical remediation. There is a spot that flattens out and people can enjoy the historical old road  
53 with a well, stone foundation and beautiful 200 year old maple trees. Rue would like to see if the Boy Scouts  
54 would be interested in building a picnic table for that area. Rue will contact Phil from Parks and Recreation to  
55 see about getting the metal barrels, trash and tree stands removed from the property. If the Bittersweet  
56 should be removed at that time, she would like to do so.

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58 Bill Herlicka recommended taking pictures to create a story and get the word out to the public about the  
59 property.

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61 **IV. Invoices**

- 62 i. Bear-Paw Regional Greenways Membership \$100.00

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64 ***David Ross made a motion to approve payment of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways Annual Membership in***  
65 ***the amount of \$100.00, seconded by Deborah Miville. Motion passed.***  
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67 **V. Projects, Events, Etc.**

- 68 i. Silver City NH, LLC, 39 Hackett Hill Road: Excavation Permit Notice

69 Cindy Robertson mentioned that a site walk for this property did take place a couple weeks ago. This is a  
70 notice to the Conservation Commission for a public hearing tomorrow evening for an excavation permit.  
71 Leann Fuller explained that the Sand and Gravel ordinance does require that the Conservation Commission be  
72 notified of any excavation permit applications.

73 Bill Herlicka said the site walk went well and that it was a great use of the property. His major concern was the  
74 runoff for the 100 year storm and the neighbors were concerned about blasting and the aquifer.

75 Leann Fuller stated that when they go to Planning Board, they will be required to provide a Stormwater  
76 Management Plan and Leann can send that to Bill once it is received.

77  
78 **VI. Other Business**

- 79 ii. Town Council's Decision on the Hooksett Riverwalk Warrant Article

80 Cindy Robertson spoke about her time in front of the Town Council. The Town Council was supportive of the  
81 Warrant Article. The entire cost for Phase III is \$320,000. The Conservation Commission did receive an \$80,000  
82 RTP Grant and roughly \$20,000 will come from Capital Reserve Funds, then the Town Council requested that  
83 another \$20,000 comes from the Conservation Fund to make it an even \$200,000 warrant article that went to  
84 the voters. Cindy will be going in front of the Budget Committee on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to review the Warrant  
85 Article requests.

86 Alex Walczyk asked if they will be completing a site walk. Cindy did ask about that but never heard anything  
87 back. They generally don't do that. The Budget Committee's job is to look at the numbers but, in this instance,  
88 they need more information.

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90 Cindy Robertson asked the Conservation Commission if the Budget Committee requests more Conservation  
91 funds be put towards this, should Cindy agree to do so or not? Ultimately, the Conservation Commission  
92 would like the Budget Committee to recommend the Warrant Article like the Town Council did. However, if

93 they don't, it is still a Warrant Article and goes to the voters. There are other properties that the Conservation  
94 Commission must retain funds for including maintenance of those additional properties.

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96 David Ross mentioned that the Conservation funds come from the Current Use tax and at some point, that will  
97 dwindle down as there is not much open property left in town. Volunteers are being leveraged as much as  
98 possible as well.

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100 ***Deborah Miville made a motion to not commit any additional Conservation funds then what is being***  
101 ***offered, seconded by David Ross. Motion passed.***

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103 iii. Development of Land Management Plan for Riverwalk fields

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105 Cindy Robertson met with a land management specialist. He went out and walked the property and he will  
106 write up a land management plan, then the Conservation Commission can work on executing that plan. All  
107 which costs money.

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109 ***Deborah Miville motioned to adjourn, seconded by Cindy Robertson. Meeting adjourned at 5:53pm.***

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111 ***Minutes respectively submitted by***

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114 ***Leann Fuller***

115 ***Administrative Assistant***

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<b>Please see subsequent meeting minutes for any amendments to these minutes.</b>
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