

**HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Monday, January 11, 2021**  
**Hooksett Municipal Building**  
**Town Hall Gymnasium**

Cindy Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

**Present:** Cindy Robertson-Chair, JoCarol Woodburn-Member, Phil Fitanides-Member, Deborah Miville-Member, Robert Better-Alternate, Alexander Walczyk- Town Council Representative

**Not Present:** David Ross-Vice Chair, John Pieroni-Alternate, William Herlicka- Alternate

**Staff:** Leann Fuller, Administrative Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**I. Consent Agenda**

- i. Shoreland Impact Permit for Lamberts Park
- ii. Easement Monitoring Reports

***Phil Fitanides motioned to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn. Motion passed.***

**II. Meeting Minutes Approvals**

- December 14, 2020

Cindy Robertson amended the minutes:

- 1. Page 3, line 113-114: It should read "Fish and Game is going to be contacted to look at it and provide a recommendation." This task has not been completed yet.

***JoCarol Woodburn motioned to approve the meeting minutes from December 14, 2020 as amended, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.***

**III. Appointments**

- i. Bennett Nelson, Eagle Scout  
 Bridge construction on Riverwalk Trail

Bennett Nelson thanked the Conservation Commission for allowing him to present. His Eagle Scout project was for the bridge on the Riverwalk Trail. The bridge is for the extension of the next phase. The bridge is 16 feet long by 5 feet wide with handrails. It is constructed from pressure treated wood and galvanized screws. The bridge is not cemented as it was built as a temporary structure. It took about an 8 hour day building the bridge with a total of 20 people assisting. 24 people helped with the entire process including the fundraising. The money came from a pancake breakfast which raised \$650.00 through ticket prices. There were additional donations received. The project did use the entire amount of funds. The total donations received, and the cost of the project was \$902.13. Bennett mentioned that COVID was a big concern and they did follow appropriate COVID measures.

46 Deborah Miville thanked Bennett for his work and that they were pleasantly surprised that the task was able  
47 to be completed. Deb thanked Bennett for fighting through the Pandemic.

48  
49 Cindy Robertson mentioned that initially this was going to be a temporary bridge. However, the Conservation  
50 Commission will try to incorporate it into the extension of the trail and make it permanent. It will need to be  
51 modified a bit.

52  
53 Phil Fitanides asked how people will be protected from Splinters. Bennett stated that they did sand it down,  
54 but they built it to be a temporary bridge, so he did not put any urethane on it. Cindy Robertson stated that it  
55 would be modified to prevent splinters.

56  
57 Alex Walczyk thanked Bennett for the great job he did.

58  
59 JoCarol Woodburn asked if she could incorporate the new bridge into the Conservation Commission blog and  
60 Bennett agreed. He will send photos to Leann to pass onto JoCarol.

61  
62 Deborah Miville asked if he received his Eagle Scout status. Bennett did reach that goal.

63  
64 ii. Bruce Thomas, Town Engineer  
65 TAP Grant

66  
67 Bruce was unable to attend this meeting but did want to speak with the Conservation Commission regarding a  
68 TAP Grant.

69  
70 Leann Fuller updated the Conservation Commission that SNHPC did state they heard from CNHRPC that  
71 Allenstown is discussing submitting for the TAP grant to complete their trail to Hooksett.

72  
73 Cindy Robertson is not inclined to apply for the TAP grant as the Conservation Commission is only work on  
74 Phase III now.

75  
76 JoCarol Woodburn mentioned that the TAP grant is a lot of work. The last grant applied for was 100 pages.  
77 JoCarol mentioned that the Conservation Commission may want to contract with someone to write the grant  
78 application.

79  
80 Cindy Robertson does not recall getting a breakdown of Phase IV from Stantec. Cindy would rather allow  
81 Allenstown to complete their trail and when the TAP Grant comes around again, it can be discussed at that  
82 time.

83  
84 iii. Katrina Amaral, Executive Director of Bear-Paw Regional Greenways and Rue Teel, Bear-Paw  
85 Steward  
86 Conservation Commission's 2021 Priorities

87  
88 Katina Amaral was present to discuss the 2021 priorities for Bear-Paw's side of the Stewardship contract. The  
89 first recommendation was how to apply the 2020 monitoring results. Rue identified the boundaries that are  
90 not marked well. However, it may not be worth the cost to resurvey them all. Without clear boundaries, it is  
91 hard to enforce. University Heights may be one to resurvey as it has a lot of abutters and challenges. Katrina  
92 mentioned that Bear-Paw does work with some semi-retired surveyors that may be willing to assist. Katrina

93 recommended getting the Heads Pond Stewardship area marked especially since the Stewardship Plan does  
94 call for that. Katrina is willing to reach out to surveyors to see what they may be willing to do. Steve and  
95 Katrina discussed starting to implement some management and stewardship plans that are already in place.  
96 Katrina would also like to start getting more volunteers for monitoring properties so Bear-Paw does not need  
97 to do it.

98  
99 Bob Better asked how often the properties are monitored. Katrina said legally, they must be done once a year.  
100 However, they would like to encourage the volunteers to visit the more public accessed properties more often  
101 to make sure they are in good shape.

102  
103 Cindy Robertson asked if Katrina and Steve identified specific trail work as a priority. Katrina said that they  
104 recommended the trails in the SCA proposal. Which is the Riverwalk trail and the Pinnacle trail. Bear-Paw will  
105 organize the SCA projects. Quimby Mountain is also a priority. There has been talk about targeted mailings to  
106 communities around conservation land to convey that what the Conservation Commission does in the town  
107 and to remind the abutters of the restrictions on the property. JoCarol Woodburn asked who would pay for  
108 the mailings and Katrina would be open to discussing that.

109  
110 JoCarol Woodburn mentioned that she would like to get maps of all the trails in Hooksett. There are no maps  
111 for the Heads Pond trail or Quimby Mountain.

112  
113 Cindy Robertson mentioned that with the invasive species remediation on Quimby Mountain, it may be a good  
114 time to get a map of Quimby Mountain.

115  
116 Phil Fitanides mentioned that a lot of people are looking for good recreational fishing, the monitoring reports  
117 do not mention that. Katrina stated that Bear-Paw does not necessarily deal with fishing. Leann stated that  
118 may be more of a Fish and Game topic. They do provide that information for anyone who wants it.

119  
120 Cindy Robertson likes the idea of starting with marking boundaries around the Head's Pond Conservation Area  
121 and asked Katrina to investigate that. She also asked that Bear-paw work with SCA on the trail work scheduled  
122 for summer 2021. Cindy asked if Steve will be working in the implementation of the Stewardship plans and  
123 Katrina said yes.

124  
125 Cindy Robertson discussed the Technical Report for the meadows at the Riverwalk. Osprey did a full report  
126 about what to recommend maximizing the amount of environment sensitivity. Steve has normally handled the  
127 conversation between the gentleman that mows and the Conservation Commission. It would be beneficial to  
128 have a point person, like Steve. Katrina recommended talking directly to Steve about that.

129  
130 Cindy Robertson began discussion about the Quimby Mountain invasive remediation. Three bids were  
131 requested because of the cost involved.

132  
133 Katrina Amaral provided an overview. This topic does fall out of the realm of a lot of businesses. There was a  
134 quote from a landscaping company. Their comfort in a forested setting may be different. Paul Eaton with Keep  
135 It Native specializes in invasive management on conservation land. It was challenging to find people who could  
136 quote this job. Rue did meet with each of them and was less enthusiastic about the landscaping business. As  
137 their expertise falls outside this habitat. The forester was very capable but may have underestimated the task  
138 at hand. It is up to the Conservation Commission which direction they would like to go. The landscape  
139 company was the highest cost, then Keep it Native and then the Foresters.

140 Phil Fitanides was the member who requested the ingredients for the herbicides they use. Phil highly  
141 recommended a more organic compound of white vinegar, salt, and dawn detergent. Phil asked if the town  
142 could do this instead of hiring someone? Leann did mention that the town most likely does not have the  
143 ability to handle this. This is a multi-year project.  
144

145 Katrina stated that she does not believe a company exists that will do this job without chemicals. However, it  
146 is a question that can be asked to the companies. They would be able to explain what they use and why they  
147 use that specifically. Katrina does recommend moving forward with questions to Paul Eaton of Keep it Native  
148 and Meadowsend Consulting Company. Katrina mentioned that the conversation did start with Paul Eaton as  
149 his business is specific to this.  
150

151 Alex Walczyk stated that they are all licensed herbicide applicators. This is a multi-year approach. Alex is  
152 familiar with the salt and vinegar mix, but it is a science. Alex is leaning more towards “the devil we know”,  
153 Keep it Native.  
154

155 Katrina is willing to speak with Keep it Native and Meadowsend Consulting Company and get answers to the  
156 questions.  
157

158 Cindy Robertson clarified that the questions would be as follows:

- 159 1. Clarify the specific chemicals used and are they open to alternative requests?
- 160 2. Does the quote include removal of the dead bittersweet? If so, are they removed from the property or  
161 mulched in?
- 162 3. Why do they use so many different chemicals?  
163

164 ***JoCarol Woodburn made a motion to move forward with informational questions to Keep it Native and***  
165 ***Meadowsend Consulting Company regarding their quotes to remove the invasive species, seconded by***  
166 ***Deborah Miville. Motion passed.***  
167

#### 168 **IV. Projects, Invoices, Etc.**

- 169 i. Bluebird Self-Storage  
170 7 College Park Drive, Map 14, Lot 1-10-1 & 2  
171 Review for wetland impacts  
172

173 Leann Fuller informed the Conservation Commission of the process in the Community Development  
174 Department for these projects. Currently, Bluebird Self Storage is on the first step and that is going to the  
175 Technical Review Committee which is comprised of staff members and board chairs. Once they complete that  
176 process, they may have to revise plans and answer questions based on that meeting. Then, it goes to the  
177 Zoning Board for the wetland impact which will require the Conservation Commission’s comment. After that,  
178 it goes to Planning Board. It is not often the Conservation Commission gets these plans and is able to review  
179 them prior to the applicant coming into the meeting. Cindy Robertson requested that Leann research what  
180 the first Bluebird building had for wetland impacts.  
181

#### 182 **V. Other Business**

- 183 i. Technical Report: Meadows at Hooksett Riverwalk Trail  
184

185 ***Brought up in conversation earlier with Katrina Amaral, Bear-Paw.***  
186

- 187 ii. TAP Grant Ideas

188  
189 ***Brought up earlier under Scheduled Appointments.***

- 190  
191  
192 iii. Quimby Mountain Invasive Vegetation Management Quotes

193  
194 ***Brought up earlier with Katrina Amaral, Bear-Paw***

- 195  
196 iv. Budget Committee Public Hearing set for January 14, 2021

197  
198 Cindy Robertson stated that the Budget Committee public hearing for all warrant articles is Thursday, January  
199 14, 2021. Cindy was able to get the word out for people to send e-mails to the Budget Committee chairman  
200 Jason Hyde recommending the support for the Merrimack Riverwalk Trail warrant article. Cindy did ask that  
201 anyone who can attend, does. JoCarol Woodburn did post on the Hooksett Community Group Facebook page  
202 and did receive some interaction with residents.

203  
204 Cindy Robertson did receive an e-mail that the Head's Pond trail is icy. The email included a request for a  
205 warning sign regarding that issue. Cindy doesn't feel that it is necessary as it is winter. The information can  
206 certainly go on the website. Cindy has never seen these types of signs on trails anywhere else and adding  
207 another sign when no one reads the current ones does not seem reasonable.

208  
209 Bob Better mentioned putting a railing down the initial slope to the trail. JoCarol Woodburn agreed and  
210 thought that may be a great scout project. JoCarol mentioned that any signs like that would have to be  
211 removed after the season.

212  
213 ***Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.***

214  
215 ***Minutes respectively submitted by***

216  
217  
218 ***Leann Fuller***

219 ***Administrative Assistant***

220  
221 

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