

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION**Monday, February 14th, 2022****Hooksett Municipal Building****35 Main Street****Town Council Chambers****I. Open Meeting 4:30 pm****II. Attendance/Introductions** Cindy Robertson-Chair, JoCarol Woodburn-Member, David Ross-Vice Chair, Alex Walczyk-town Council Rep, Bob Better-Alternate, Joe Peroni-Alternate**III. Excused:** Phil Fitanides & Deborah Miville**IV. Pledge of Allegiance 4:30****V. Public Input** none**VI. Consent Agenda**

01/13/2022 Transfer Finance Memorandum

Motion to Approve made by David Ross, 2nd by JoCarol Woodburn - All in favor**Meeting Minutes Approvals**

01/10/2022

Motion to approve made by David Ross 2nd by JoCarol Woodburn - All in favor***Cindy Page 4 add "SCA Trail Group and page 5, correct DPW to "take over"*****VII. Invoices**

1. Stantec Invoice \$500.00

Motion to approve made by JoCarol Woodburn 2nd by Bob Better***Comment: David Ross - 4 hours billed with no explanation******Motion to Approve conditionally, request for supporting documentation.******All in favor***

2. Moosewood Ecological LLC \$1,387.50

Motion to approve made by JoCarol Woodburn 2nd by David Ross - All in favor3. (FYI only **No motion required**- \$80,000 RTP Grant Payment Complete)**VIII. Appointments**

Adam Hlasny: SNHPC Senior Transportation Planner

We are going around the region to talk about local trail groups and the several initiatives for those groups we do.

43 The 2021 Regional Trail Plan updated last year. A lot of changes that have happen
44 updating the trail existing conditions and maps, we have plans for those updates.
45 We also did a trail survey and we have the plan and our results on our website to
46 download.

47 *Adam provided an example of the survey and the results.*

48 We did a passport for the rail trail use and the locations where you could get the
49 passport stamped when you walked or biked the trail. It was the 1st year we had
50 done this and it was a success.

51 **Cindy** do you think you will you do it again this year?

52 **Adam** yes, that is the plan.

53 **JoCarol** how did you get the word out about the program?

54 **Adam** social media and our website. We also did a bike/pedestrian counter, we
55 count with our inferred counter a few weeks at a time only because we compile
56 counts for 42 trails.

57 **Adam** shared the numbers for those counts. Daily and hourly and the counts were
58 higher in 2019 when everyone was home and found trails as the safest outside
59 recreation. We know that weather can make the numbers change so we like to take
60 the count for a minimum of 2 weeks so if there is a stretch of bad weather that
61 would keep people off the trails we have enough other days for a good count

62 **Cindy** How do you know those counted this way are all people and not deer?

63 **Adam** well technically we don't know.

64 **Cindy** We know that when the people are not there the deer are using the trails

65 **Adam** Some of these count data we monitor and show use, we can use to gets
66 grants for funding the existing condition records, improvement for bike/ped use. We
67 can assist if you want help with any grants. Also, If you have request for counts, we
68 can help with that, the more notice the better. We have all this information on our
69 website www.snhpc.org

70 **David** what are the identified bike trails in Hooksett?

71 **Adam** Heads Pond and River Walk are the 2 we have counts for. We try others to
72 look and see what may be good for the counter

73 **David R** why I am wondering is that we don't allow bike on all trails. Just so we are
74 all on the same page and you don't think we have bikes on a trail you are counting
75 for that.

76 **Adam** the equipment we have right now only count warm bodies that pass by. We
77 have access to equipment that is a tube across the trail and can count bike hits

78 **Cindy** when you do the passport program can you email us that so we can get the
79 info out.

80 **David** this is our Bicentennial so this is something that would be good to get out for
81 that celebration. Maybe they will open Robies for that

82 **Joe** what do you do to integrate trails between communities?

83 **Adam** we facilitate conversations between towns and bring in DOT when necessary.
84 We hold field work sessions for all towns involved and promote options as what the
85 trail would look like. We are the facilitators and want to see these trails across our
86 region.

87 **Alex** we spoke in July at the 10 year plan for NH we went back and forth trying to get
 88 NH on the map for the bike trails. Do you have any information as to what
 89 Manchester and how they are working on connecting up through Hooksett. Have
 90 they been moving forward and talking more with to connect up to Concord and all
 91 the way to Canada. We are in the way but to keep that momentum going we will
 92 help in anyway we can

93 **Adam** we do have a liaison that attends those meetings but there it is not fully
 94 accepted by the city yet.

95 **Joe** the plan it shows what exist today not a projected plan correct?

96 **Adam** it has lines what we think may happen or connect but there are private lands
 97 involved that we can't add if we don't own

98 **Joe** is there a goal for some trails, concepts that are still active.

99 **Adam** we present options. A snapshot.

100 **JoCarol** do you know when the TAP is going to do their next Grant?

101 **Adam** DOT keeps that under rap. You find out before we do.

102 **JoCarol** do you know of any other grants we should be looking at

103 **Adam** no, but I can do some research on that.

104 **Alex** are you planning to put counters out again this year?

105 **Adam** yes, we typically do Heads Pond in April
 106
 107

108 IX. Other Business

109 1. "Friends of the Trails" Program Discussion

110 **Cindy** I contacted Paul Eaton and he will help on the April 23rd to help identify the
 111 invasive. April 23rd is a big date. We are partnering with Kiwanis and now we heard
 112 of a group to "Beautify the town of Hooksett Day" also on the 23rd. They asked if we
 113 would like to join them. I let them know that we had our own beautify project
 114 planned for the trails.

115 **David R** I did ask DPW and they have a trailer and an ATV to pull it for us and Parks &
 116 Rec will be happy to help with that. I have not gotten a commitment from them yet
 117 for that day and now that I hear of all these other events, I think I better get that
 118 commitment.

119 **Cindy** I would like to know if they will take everything from the trail and do you
 120 know if they have brown bags, if it must be bagged and how much they will take?
 121 Also recycling closes at 1. So how do we get it there on time?

122 **JoCarol** if everyone is starting at 10 – 1 should we change our time?

123 **Cindy** I would be inclined to leave it at 9 – 12. But what do you think?

124 **JoCarol** I think we should change it so we are the same time as Kiwanis and no one
 125 will miss the talk with Paul Eaton

126 **David** will ask DPW about the amount and if there are any limits, time we can have it
 127 removed and if the gate will stay open and if they can provide the bags

128 **Cindy** will they provide tools?

129 ***The Committee did agree to change the time to 10 – 1pm***

130 **David** I will ask if they can put the tools on the trailer and bring them to us

131 **Cindy** we will provide water and I will bring that. I think 25 – 30 will be enough

132 **Joe** is it just bittersweet that we are cleaning out?

133 **JoCarol** we asked for trash to be pick up too

134 **Bob** what about behind University Heights

135 **Cindy** I did pass it along to Kiwanis about the trash. Maybe the Boy Scouts will get
136 out there

137 **JoCarol** I don't think we will have a huge amount of Bittersweet.

138 **JoCarol** Sheena and I are going to put together an FAQ for what we have and what is
139 expected of the Friends of the Trails

140 ***Continued discussion for the agenda for March***

141 2. Heads Pond Conservation Area Documentation continued
142 discussion E-mail follow-up

143 **Cindy** I talked with Sheena and she and Bruce have been talking with University
144 Heights and they have been marking out the monuments that are there and that will
145 affect the cost to us, if they are marking the lots they are developing. Do we have
146 any interest to invite Dan to the next meeting so we can ask questions about this
147 and the cost?

148 **Joe** do you mean the cost of the survey?

149 **Cindy** they will survey the whole 400 acres to include the school piece. We have to
150 take step one in the stewardship plan and that is the next step.

151 **David** our big answers are where the bounds are.

152 **Joe** when they complete the survey they are going to put out post that are visible to
153 us? I think it would be best to have Dan come to our next meeting.

154 **Cindy** maybe in March we can take a vote to make the decision on this

155 **David** it would be good to know how big is this project, and what needs to be done

156 **JoCarol** do we know when he can would get this completed and what do we plan to
157 do next with the information

158 **Cindy** The stewardship plan has the addition of more bike trails. The surveys will
159 clearly show the boundaries so when we go back to the school they will see our plan.

160 ***The Commission agreed to invite Dan Tatem to the meeting in March***

161 3. Bear Paw Stewardship Contract Updated

162 **Cindy** this is what we talked about last meeting with Steve and Katrina and the goals
163 we talked about.

164 **JoCarol** The signs will be in. Kathy will accept and check the physical shape and email
165 Jocarol for her to come see them too

166 4. Student Conservation Association

167 **Cindy** went over the hand out with a brief discussion for their help again this
168 summer

169 5. Hooksett Natural Resource Video - Creator Tony Lacasse

170 **David** I know him briefly and he just got nominated and appointed to the Heritage
171 Commission.

172 **Cindy** I'm not sure what he may want from us and where we can view the video he
173 makes.

174 **JoCarol** I think he was inviting us to join that day if we would like.

175 Kathy will check with Tony Lacasse inquire what or if he needs anything more from
176 HCC.

177 6. Cystic Fibrosis - 40th Anniversary Charity Ride Chester Tpk.

178 **Cindy** this is exactly what they did last year and we should let them again this year. It
179 is only for 1 day and they are very controlled with where they ride.

180 **Motion to approve as we did before for the Cystic Fibrosis Annual Charity Ride and**
181 **the use of Chester Turnpike made by Alex Walczyk 2nd David Ross. All in favor**

182 **David** there is no date set for the ride yet but they may have a lot to clear and get
183 approvals for before they set the date to go through the land.

184 **Joe** if we don't allow ATV's on our trails, why do we for this?

185 **Cindy** this is the same as we discussed last year and we agreed because it is just
186 once a year and they are very controlled about where they ride and the don't act
187 destructive.

188 **Joe** okay so why do we not allow for our other trails?

189 **Cindy** ATV go everywhere and they are destructive to the trails and the plants. This
190 charity ride is very limited and restrictive.

191 **David** they testified that they would be very controlled and we agreed.

192 **Joe** if this group can do this on Chester Tpk do we oppose ATV use on Chester Tpk?

193 **Cindy** Yes because they don't stay on the road.

194 **David** and historically they cut trees and do not stay on the trail

195 7. Beaver Removal on Riverwalk Trail DPW asked if they could

196 remove the brush and remove the beaver Dam Let Tommy know
197 that they can. (Kathy)

198 Quimby Mountain – **Phil Arnone will help with the breach in the stone wall. Could**
199 **someone go to the site with him for him to determine what will be best to fix it.**

200 **Kathy - Reach out to Rue to connect with Phil to fix the breach.**

201

202

203 **X. Additional business brought up by the Conservation Commission:**

204 **Discussion of the Volunteer Appreciation open house invitation and the DOT**
205 **Hooksett road project Open House .**

206 **JoCarol Shared the passing of Kathie Northrop and the Commission shared some**
207 **memories and accomplishments.**

208

209 **Motion to Adjourn by Cindy at 5:50 2nd by David Ross, All in Favor**

210

211

212

213 **Non-Public Session** NH RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of a
214 real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties
215 who interests are adverse to those of the general community.