

1 HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2 Monday, June 13, 2022

3 4:30pm

4 Hooksett Municipal Building

5 35 Main Street

6 Town Council Chambers

7  
8 I. Open Meeting 4:35 pm

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10 II. Attendance/Introductions: Cindy Robertson-Chair, JoCarol Woodburn-Vice Chair, Deb  
11 Miville Member, Phil Fitandides Member

12 Excused: John Pieroni Alternate, Bob Better Member, Sheena Gilbert Planning Board  
13 Rep, Alex Walczyk Town Council Rep

14 Not in Attendance: William Herlicka

15  
16  
17 III. Pledge of Allegiance 4:36

18  
19 IV. Public Input: None

20  
21 V. Consent Agenda

- 22 1. NHDES Letter of deficiency Berry Hill Road
- 23 2. NHDES 47 Hackett Hill Rd Granite Woods Development
- 24 3. NHDES Incomplete Wetlands Permit-by-Notification 19 Merrimack St
- 25 4. NHDES Reported Alleged Violation 58 Hackett Hill Rd
- 26 5. NHDES forestry Statutory Permit-by-Notification Map 4 Lot 30
- 27 6. Normandeau Associates Hooksett Bridge Preservation Interstate 93
- 28 7. Finance Memorandum FY 2023-24 Operating Budgets

29 *Motion to Approve made by, Deb Miville, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alex Walczyk - All in favor*

30  
31 VI. Meeting Minutes Approvals

32 05/09/2022

33 *Motion to approve made by Alex Walczyk 2<sup>nd</sup> by JoCarol Woodburn, All in favor*

34  
35 VII. Invoices:

- 36 1. Stantec consulting Services Open Space Survey May 19,2022 \$402.50 (with billing  
37 backup)

38 *Motion to approve payment of \$402.50 to Stantec dated May 19, 2022 made by Alex*  
39 *Walczyk, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Miville All in favor*

40 VIII. Appointments

- 41 i. Rue Teel – Clay Pond Shooting

42 **Cindy** there is target shooting at Clay Pond (town property). We have received complaints. Rue  
43 has reached out to John O'Neil of Manchester Water Works. Rue, myself and MWW met to talk  
44 about what could be done. It is target shooting and it is doing damage.

45 **Rue** Clay Pond protects wildlife and scenery. There is a section with a gate and bar and those  
46 that wanted to access for hunting and shooting opened the gates and are accessing the area  
47 with vehicles. Some are shooting at trees and targets they bring, and some are shooting into  
48 the ground, which is good so they are not going where they may not be stopped. There are  
49 homes back there and we are hearing from those landowners

50 **JoCarol** We do allow hunting during hunting season?

51 **Rue** we do and they are being quieter then target shooting. Hunters do not want to scare the  
52 deer and over all there is less shooting. Rue provided a map and photos that show where and  
53 the damage they are making with target shooting. The site they are using, they are shooting  
54 thousands of rounds. Boxes of ammunition and blowing them off. Damaging trees scaring  
55 hikers and animals.

56 **Cindy** they call it the wild west out there, it has been wide open land for a long time. It appears  
57 most are coming in with trucks. Not hiking in and the gates have been bent over. MWW has big  
58 heavy gates and maybe that would stop the trucks from gaining access. I suggested a bollard in  
59 the center too so there would not be enough space for a truck to go through. That would be a  
60 good first step to see if that would make a difference.

61 **Rue** we don't have cameras but if we posted "No Target Shooting" maybe that would help.  
62 Police want the landowners to call and if a random landowner calls and they may be able to get  
63 there while they are still there shooting.

64 **JoCarol** if the police did respond and find someone what is the punishment?

65 **Rue** I don't know but if they are damaging trees, then that is punishable. Rue provided the NH  
66 Timber Harvesting Law. Someone that is damaging trees is considered a form of theft.

67 **JoCarol** you are proposing to put a gate in that area but is there more than one access?

68 **Rue** the only part we can close is what has already but put in place, but the gates have been  
69 destroyed. The portion subject to gates and bars is at the intersection of Wiggins and N Candia  
70 Rd.

71 **JoCarol** The Chester Tpk gate, is that still there?

72 **Rue** yes, they have been working in there. That's where the Ballard would go that Cindy is  
73 talking about

74 **Cindy** instead of what we had, if we put something in the center, then an atv would fit around it  
75 but not a truck and if we put a timber tress pass sign there then maybe they will be aware. If we  
76 do see someone being destructive to the trees, then they are on notice.

77 **Phil** Chains up they would be no good. You need large boulders

78 **Rue** MWW also needs access to their property and Hooksett too. We do still need to allow that.  
79 Those that want to gain access will go to lengths to do so.

80 **Phil** maybe posting hunting only and no target shooting.

81 **Cindy** we want to minimize the access for pickup trucks. The bollard with key access will allow  
82 those that need access can do so. there is only so much we can do.

83 **Phil** that may not work.

84 **JoCarol** it has worked so far where we have done this.

85 **Rue** it has worked where we have done what Cindy is talking about. We just want to limit  
86 trucks.

87 **JoCarol** When you say MWW will work with us will they help with the cost?

88 **Rue** MMW they do have some items of what we need to do this they have land down this road  
89 too and it behooves them to do this too  
90 **Cindy** we have people calling and complaining so I think we need to do something  
91 **JoCarol** we have no signs out there so that would be good to do  
92 **Rue** you should post basic signs at all main access for hunting allowed no target shooting and  
93 post that actions have the consequences.  
94 **JoCarol** how many locations for signs  
95 **Rue** target range area we visited. And one other place  
96 **Cindy** discussed the locations of signs. Maybe 3  
97 **Rue** suggested 4  
98 **Cindy** we need to come up with language.  
99 **JoCarol** we can use some of the language that we have on other signs  
100 **Phil** who will enforce this? Special sensor devices that send a frequency to HPD.  
101 **Cindy** maybe Hooksett PD  
102 **JoCarol** gave an example of what is already posted at the kiosk.  
103 **Cindy** we need to add No Littering too  
104 **Deb** how safe am I to walk there  
105 **Rue** you are safe, they are not shooting down the trail. They are shooting in the woods but in  
106 the area of where the people live there.  
107 **Cindy** are we in agreement to have the signs and bollards at the gates  
108 **Alex** something needs to be done and the signs are a relatively quick solutions and bollard is a  
109 good idea to stop pickup trucks. To Phil's point, what about a trail cam? Maybe we would get  
110 an idea of recurrence. Maybe a camera on the bollard so we would see who may move that.  
111 We would have to check on the camera regularly though.  
112 **Cindy** the camera at the bollard is a good idea, we could capture a license then.  
113 **Rue** you can send a cease-and-desist letter and if they ruin the bollard then that is destruction  
114 of town property.  
115 **Cindy** even if we take them to court and we lose they know we are here watching out for our  
116 property  
117 **JoCarol** do we have liability if someone did get hurt?  
118 **Alex** I like the bollard idea but it is not a perm solution if we have a camera then we could go to  
119 the police with evidence.  
120 **Rue** when we are past the point of target shooting and gate destruction you could use the  
121 camera in other ways. For good tool to show what is out there of interest  
122 **Cindy** gates and signs definitely work and the bollard too  
123 **Phil** what is the size of the area they are shooting.  
124 **Rue** not sure, it was cleared several years ago  
125 **Cindy** asked Rue if the SCA would be working with us at all this year?  
126  
127 **Rue** last year you put the application together. If you have something in mind for a project, we  
128 could put together a good volunteer day  
129 **Cindy** we can talk about it and set it up for next year  
130  
131

132 **IX. Other Business**

133

134

135 1. Heads Pond Conservation Area Documentation

136 **Continued Discussion**

137 **Cindy No update at this time the survey and monuments are going forward**

138 2. Stewardship Plan: Carriage Manor, University Heights, Town Pond and School District.

139 **Continued Discussion**

140 3. Riverwalk Trail Work needed for Loop

141 Maps provided by Dan Tatum and Bruce Thomas

142 **Cindy** There is more water flowing and the trail is flooded. We recently walked the trail with  
 143 Dan Tatem and Belko, you can see dents and washouts. The grass has not had an opportunity to  
 144 fill in and provide a natural stop to the washout. Some of the work that needs to get done as  
 145 part of Phase III is still under contract with Belko, one area may need a culvert. Let's wait and  
 146 let the grass grow and see if that helps and if next spring when the heavy rains it still washes  
 147 out we may have them put in a culvert. We have \$191,000 remaining for Phase III and \$14,000  
 148 for Belko Landscaping. We will use that money for the touch ups. The culvert is new. The  
 149 moneys left over can be encumbered we will need a new contract with Belko.

150 **Deb** it doesn't have to go out to bid?

151 **Cindy** it is a second contract enhanced.

152 **Deb** in this 2016 bid it says it could go up if not done until next year

153 **Cindy** we have 2 areas for benches and I want to allow \$35,000 for the benches and the beaver  
 154 trapping I would like to round up if we don't encumber then we won't have it. I would like to  
 155 encumber for future work

156 **Deb** the encumbrance is it in a certain time frame?

157 **Cindy** the PO is good until 2026. If we don't encumber it, it is going in the general fund it is  
 158 better to encumber it now, so we have it if we need it. I want to go to TC and get the money for  
 159 the benches and the beavers

160 **JoCarol** can we add the beaver dam to phase III

161 **Cindy** we did vote to have Dan remove the beaver. Dan needs insurance and the town of  
 162 Chester said they are not going to purchase it for him, Primex is covering it. I asked if we use  
 163 Primex to can we get the same coverage?

164 **Alex** I did follow up and talked with Derek, Primex Agent. I read the language you provided and  
 165 asked if we could get the same treatment. He said it may be possible, they are already covering  
 166 the towns for something similar. He is going to do research. I suggest we make a preliminary  
 167 approval to have Dan move forward with removing the beavers.

168 **Cindy** do we need TC approval?

169 **Alex** if Primex comes back and says we can then we can do it. If Primex recommends we get TC  
 170 approval, we will.

171 **Alex Walczyk made a motion to give Conditional Approval for Dan Tatem to provide beaver**  
 172 **removal as long as approval and parameters are met that are provided by Primex, Hooksett**  
 173 **Primary Insurance carrier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Miville, All in favor**

174 **Cindy** part of the money we are going to encumber will pay for this. Is 30,000 sufficient?

175 **JoCarol** do we want to add more on?

176 **Phil** how much was flooded by the beavers

177 **Cindy** the 1<sup>st</sup> boardwalk and all the trail to the left, over the next 2 boardwalks and lots of  
178 woodlands. You can't walk around it

179 **JoCarol** read a social media about the flooding on the trail and reference to the beaver issue

180

181 ***Cindy made a motion to recommend encumbering \$30,000 of the remaining funding from the***  
182 ***2021 Warrant Article to complete the new contract for Phase III to finish the trail work on***  
183 ***Phase III, 2<sup>nd</sup> be Deb Miville All in favor***

184 **Cindy** Paul Eaton called to talk with me about the invasive plants on the trail

185

186 4. Dubois & King Request for Conservation Commission Comments

187 **Cindy** I have no comments to the proposed revision to the fishway design.

188 **Deb** is it the fishway in Manch or is there going to be one Hooksett The fed agency in this  
189 project no what they are talking about and I have no comments

190 **Cindy** do we want to see more information?

191 **Phil** I would ask for additional map

192 Request a map. And any clarification on the project.

193

194 5. Hooksett Old Home Day September 17<sup>th</sup>

195

196 **Cindy** asked if anyone would like to attend?

197 **Phil** is there was a charge, and it was confirmed there is no charge

198 **Cindy** – so Community Development will submit the form

199 **Phil** – I will get anyone on HCC helicopter rides for free on Old Home Day, fly over the river walk  
200 trail, and place the video of the trail on the youtube

201

202 ***Continued discussion (event availability)***

203

204 6. July 2, 2022 Birthday Bash

205 **Cindy** Anyone interested in taking part

206 **Deb** I think Old Home Day is good enough.

207 Members agreed

208

209 7. Warrant Article Request Form Submission

210 **Cindy** – CIP warrant article has already been submitted for \$270,000. \$305,000 if RTP grant falls  
211 through, but we will know for sure by next march

212

213 8. RTP Grant Update

214 **JoCarol** we are in the final stretch. Dan is doing the cost estimates for the final submission. We  
215 did a site walk last week and Dan will send the estimates this week. Lots of support letters we  
216 nice. We will need to have someone take the application to Concord. it will be available by the  
217 end of the day Thursday to take the thumb drive to Concord. There is lots of competition.

218 **Alex** ARPA funds distribution decisions have been postponed no news yet.

219 **Jo Carol** are there any abutters that we would need to send letters for PhaseIV

220 **Cindy** no there are no abutters

221 JoCarol we need to do the natural heritage review and Dan is going to take care of that.

222

223

224 **9. Additional business brought up by the Conservation Commission:**

225

226 **JoCarol** shared the article/picture in the Banner for Beautify Hooksett Day

227 Check out the Framed Historical Information hanging outside of Chambers

228 Kathy ordered the frames, and they are hung outside now.

229 **Non-Public Session** NH RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of a

230 real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties

231 who interests are adverse to those of the general community.

232

233 ***Adjourned 6:02 pm***

234

235 ***Minutes respectfully Submitted by Kathy Lawrence***