

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, November 14, 2022

4:30pm

Hooksett Municipal Building

35 Main Street

Town Council Chambers

I. Open Meeting 4:31 pm

I. Attendance/Introductions: Cindy Robertson-Chair, JoCarol Woodburn- Vice Chair, Phil Fitanides-Member, Deborah Miville- Member, Robert Better-Member, Sheena Gilbert Planning- board rep

II.

Excused:

III. Pledge of Allegiance 4:42

IV. Public Input None

V. Consent Agenda

1. DES AoT Permit Application 1461 Hooksett Rd Map 18 Lot 49-D

2. Transfer of Current Use Deposits & T Shirt Sales

3. Transfer from Conservation Account to Town General Fund Stantec Consulting Services

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Sheena Gilbert, 2nd by JoCarol Woodburn. All in favor

Phil 1461 Hooksett Rd AoT permit, did it come before us?

Cindy I am not sure

VI. Meeting Minutes Approvals

10/17/2022

Motion to approve minutes as drafted with corrections identified by Phil & JoCarol made by JoCarol Woodburn, 2nd by Sheena Gilbert

Changes:

Phil line 138 pairs is referring to the pairs of arms per bench, and line 149 should read the total weight is 11,000lbs

JoCarol line 195 the Grant should read RTP Grant

Approve with changes All in favor

VII. Invoices

1 J. Daniel Tatem, Invoice-Nuisance Beaver Trapping, Total Due - \$302.50

Motion to pay \$302.50 made by Deb Miville, 2nd by Phil Fitanides. All approve

2. Stantec Invoice #1999076 Nov 8, 2022, Phase III & Phase IV work. \$1,320.00

Motion to approve payment made by Bob Better, 2nd by Deb Miville All in favor

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Cindy As Dan Tatem explained, one trap had been damaged intentionally and one stolen. The damaged trap was worse because the beaver got caught in the trap. So this is similar to what happens if you shoot a deer and you don't track it eventually dies and this is similar to that, the trapped beaver probably died and it was a slow long death because he was caught in a trap that someone cut. So for the public that read our minutes we need to be specific and want people to know that you can't cut the traps, its private property, he owns the traps, we do not. It is taxpayer money that will be used to reimburse for those traps that this person did in protest. We have now put out game cameras where there are beaver traps because this can't go on. For those in the audience that are new to this issue, I put together a timeline because I think the history here is important for people to understand. Conservation didn't just start dealing with this when it hired Dan Tatem to remove the beavers, there was a long discussion starting in 2020 of dealing with the beavers because we received a request from DPW because the trail was being flooded and they wanted to hire someone to put a pipe system in. It is one alternative that the state recognizes to help with beavers flooding trails, so we did at a cost of \$1600.00. We put the pipe system in to alleviate the problem and keep the trail dry and the pipe system failed completely, I don't know why but it did, it wasn't draining. There was water everywhere, over the pipe and in areas that should never have been wet. It was a mess, and the beaver was still there. October 20th of 2020, I walked out there with the easement holder which is the Society for the Protection of Forestry and she looked at the trail, and we are obligated to do as they wish on this property as they hold the easement. Naomi looked at it and I quote, this particular property, the trapping and removal of the beavers likely would have been a better solution. We did not go that route the 1st time and we did talk about when we decided to do the piping was that if the pipe system failed, we should consider removing the beavers. Based on the pipe failing and the easement holder's opinion we then said fine, we are going to have to trap the beavers and remove them. So, people who are new to this issue, I wanted to give them this history and we did not just come to this solution we had deliberated and thought we took a lot of action and spent a lot of money and tried to live with the beavers but ultimately the removal was the decision we reached and that's where we are. Whomever is cutting the traps in protest to us trapping the beavers we ask you to stop doing that and now that we have the game cameras if we catch you, we will prosecute. Sheena the traps are not for killing the animals, and if they don't interfere the animal would be okay in the trap, and they are able to be removed, where as in this case the animal has been harmed. Cindy that is my understanding, but I don't know a whole lot about the difference of traps Bob if the beaver is caught is it delivered someplace else? Cindy it is up to the trapper. We pay him to trap and remove the beavers Sheena is there still a 2nd beaver out there? Could he potentially cause more damage? Cindy when we remove a beaver, we understand there will be other beavers that come back. We had 2 beavers removed and 2 beavers came back. Now these are removed and I fully understand that Dan will check for activity and watch for others he will break the dam to

88 release the water. He wants us to keep an eye on the activity too and he will put his traps back
89 out. Ideally if they didn't dam it up, we wouldn't need him

90 Sheena and ideally, we want to keep up with it so it is not where they want to build a home

91 Phil can we adjust what we are doing later on

92 Cindy there is a ton of literature because this is a huge issue all over and there are all kinds of
93 beaver removal, and the 2 options are the piping, which we tried or removal. We will continue
94 to remove until they stop flooding the trail.

95 Phil who big an area floods?

96 Cindy it depends on the season. There is a lot of flooding and water on the trail and that creates
97 lots of complaints of the trail and people not being able to use the trail for hiking or wheelchairs
98 being able to use it.

99 Bob and I'm sure there is icing when it freezes

100 **2 Appointments:**

101 Kaitlin with Bear Paw: Map 14 Lot 34 Town Owned Property (Maps Provided)

102 **Kaitlin Deyo Bear Paw Regional Greenways Land Protection Project Manager**

103 Cindy we received a list of town properties for us to look into and see if we are interested. And I
104 let them know don't do anything with it, we are interested in the parcel

105 Kaitlin provided a map with the parcel and Bear Paw is interested in property.

106 Cindy the piece above may be the school piece and one abuts our piece

107 Kaitlin we are interested in working on this. I think we would want easement verbiage similar to
108 the Clay Pond easement language. We would update the legal language. No survey has been
109 found. I have emailed Leann and Merrimack Registry no one has found one the big cost may be
110 the survey and we want title work done it

111 Cindy what is the acreage

112 Kaitlin 80 acres

113 Cindy who would do the survey and title work

114 Kaitlin Bear Paw would handle that

115 Bob are there any wood roads there?

116 Kaitlin not that I am aware of

117 Deb did you say the town owned it

118 Sheena there are several 100 properties and the town what's to clean them up. Make them
119 profitable or utilize them, sell the or utilize

120 Cindy there was a developer looking at this piece.

121 Kaitlin there have been several

122 Cindy this is why we want to get this easement stated

123 Kaitlin the cost could run \$27,000 to \$30,000 to survey and this could go higher

124 Sheena we did have a parcel close to this survey recently, is it possible there is something there,
125 maybe save costs

126 Cindy not all on the area of the parcel is abutting, I do know that the 2 parcels I spoke of is ours
127 and the school.

128 Sheena was this parcel previously owned by MS&G? didn't S&H say they found some pins when
129 they were here.

130 Cindy could you see if Steve knows?

131 Sheena I think this may help be cost effective
132 Kaitlin I will check
133 Cindy the land improvement fund we can use as a source. We have \$20,000 committed to
134 phase IV of the Riverwalk Trail and other monies we are using we will figure How does CO feel
135 about an easement
136 Sheena what % of Conservation land do we have?
137 JoCarol we have 25%
138 Sheen so this could align with the Master Plan
139 Deb seems we talked about the no man's land. Is this part of that?
140 Cindy no it is not. The town didn't own it we should double check that.
141 Sheena it make sense to utilize this

142 ***Cindy made a motion to move forward to place a conservation easement on lot 14-34,***
143 ***approx. 80 acres with Bear Paw holding the easement. 2nd by JoCarol All in favor***

144 Phil would you provide a larger map for us with more detail about the surrounding properties?
145 Kaitlin sure.

146 Sheena it would be nice to see how we are piecing this together.

147 Cindy you can look on our website and see this it is called Conservation Heads Pond
148 Stewardship Plan. This lot may be on this map

149 Kaitlin we are meeting with our land committee, and I will chat with them about this

150 Cindy what happened was the 16 acres by the rowing club and that was approx. 20.000 and she
151 is acceptable, and we don't know if we have that but we can have this so move forward.

152 Sheena there are so many properties around this, there have to be some boundaries out there.
153 With more trials that could connect. I wish we could get 1 map that shows everything.

154 Bob this looks like the area they use for Kiwanis run. With all these potential easements we may
155 need to prioritize our easement for funding.

156 Cindy I agree and we should have the trail monitoring being completed and Bear Paw to do the
157 training

158 Send an email out to the Friends of trails and bcc the committee

159 Cindy we need to reach out to the volunteers and see about the training for monitoring.

160 JoCarol we need to find out if there is interest in trail monitoring and then set up training.

161 Sheena what if we joined with the library flyers for sending out information.

162 Cindy I think we should send out a thank you letter for signing to all volunteers, and ask are you
163 interested in monitoring.

164 Sheena the first few we got were at a volunteer group of the library.

165 Cindy we need to push the Monitor training with our volunteers. Then go to Bear Paw to for the
166 training, We have a lot of land that needs to be monitored

167 JoCarol I know Rue will do the training

168 Cindy yes they said they would walk out with them the first time and explain.

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171 **VIII. Other Business**

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173 **Donation from the Rice Family Charitable Trust**

174 **Motion to approve the \$1000.00 donation made by Cindy Robertson as describe in a letter**
175 **from Fidelity Charitable dated October 20, 2022. 2nd by Robert Better. All approved**

176 **Sheena** Can we send a thank you letter once Town Council has approved

177

178 **Heather Rainier Library's offer to sell HCC t-shirts**

179 Heather Rainier of Hooksett Library has agreed to sell t shirts at the library

180 Cindy can we deliver what we have to Heather, let her know what we are charging. Also give

181 Heather a form to be completed with Date, Size, Name & email also a check box for

182 volunteering.

183 Sheena should we order more?

184 JoCarol do you like the design?

185 Sheena should we add properties?

186 JoCarol they are all there. I do need to correct Head's Pond

187 JoCarol I ordered them from local business. We ordered beige and green last time but do we

188 want to just order green. 100% cotton?

189 **Sizes to order sm., med., lrg., xlrg., and 2xx lrg. JoCarol will get a quote**

190 **Send JoCarol the size and amount of t-shirts**

191 **Invasive species Management**

192 Cindy I found that we can get reimbursed if you spend money on the herbicides?

193 JoCarol the application deadline was November

194 **Conservation Commission Budget – FY 2023-24 (update if any change from what was**
195 **submitted)**

196 Cindy Everything got approved they asked if it did not get approved would we lose our RTP

197 grant. A question on the \$30,000 and we explained what a conservation easement was. It will

198 move to a Public Impute and then they vote. It is very advantages for them to show support

199 with the vote.

200 **NH Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Conference Nov 5**

201 **Comments from attendees and circulation of e-news**

202

203 Bob There were 2 speakers, one, a 12 yr old boy that spoke like he had been speaking in front

204 of people all in life. He was so eloquent and sounded like he had spoken of conservation all his

205 life. Along with him another speaker from Brooklyn that had visited NH many years ago and

206 never left. She spoke of her experiences here and time on the trails.

207 Deb I took a course on How Common Wildlife connects us to Space and the Over use of land,

208 Climate Change and Use of Trails.

209 Bob the fundamentals of conservation. They stressed 231a 236a very important to our business

210 here and to know your NRI. I checked Bow, they had updated there NRI just this year. Then my

211 3rd session, Use of Trails.

212 Cindy the book they handed out, NH Municipal Handbook 2021. Could we get more?

213 **Bridgette and Kathy will email on the availability of additional copies**

214 **Heads Pond Conservation Area Documentation**

215 1.Heads Pond Boundary Line Issue, S&H Land Services Letter

216

217 2. Continued Discussion-Encroachments additional photos provided
218 Cindy we have the addresses of the lots that we know are encroachments are on our property
219 and we will let the school board know about the encroachments on their property. Cindy
220 provided the photo of the school lot and added he may have approval, but we don't know
221

222 **Stewardship Plan: Carriage Manor, University Heights, Town Pond and School District.**

223 ***Continued Discussion-update***

224 **Riverwalk Trail**

225 **Stantec ROW Survey Scope and Fee Estimate**

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227 **Discussion for Benches**

228 Phil I sent a message to DPW but I have not received a reply back. I will ask directly again about
229 picking them up and if they can store 1 bench

230 Cindy we have places for 2 but we need the 3rd stored. Did DPW approve to
231 store. We can put that one on the trail and have it move.

232 JoCarol can they move an assembled bench

233 Phil each bench weights 350 lbs per bench assembled.

234 Cindy if we order before Jan do we get the better price?

235 Phil we pay after the bench is made and pick it up that day.

236 JoCarol so we need to know if DPW can store the bench, or can we move an assemble bench
237 and will they transport and assemble them.

238 **Kathy confirmation on check for payment**

239 Phil I can order the benches and then it takes 3 days to build it

240 Deb do you think they have time to start before January by the time we order?

241 Phil, yes

242 Cindy we need to get confirmation from DPW. Do we want to vote on this now?

243 ***JoCarol made a motion to purchase 3 benches for The River Walk Trail in an amount not to***
244 ***exceed \$5,000 and if DPW can pick them up. 2nd by Phil. All in favor***

245

246 **Cindy once we get confirmation from DPW put the order in.**

247

248 **Target Shooting Prohibited Signs: Invoice payments approved 10/17.**

249 ***Continued Discussion***

250 JoCarol showed the signs that they posted at Clay Pond. There was a lot of damage on this site.
251 Litter and propane tanks they are shooting at had started a fire and killed a tree. The gate had
252 been knocked down and damaged.

253 Deb we had suggested boulders

254 Phil I suggested huge boulders. Who are you dealing with at MS&G. I can call them. Let me
255 know and I will work on it.

256 Cindy I don't remember his name but we walked with them out there and they said they would
257 do this. (Ballard and a game came)

258 Phil what kind of game cameras did you use? Who is in charge of them?

259 Cindy Bear Paw knows how to use the game cams. This is a difficult problem to address, and it
260 is no man's land out there
261 Sheena is there a time frame that we need to act. Do we asked Bear Paw to start the set of the
262 cameras and then do we reach out the Hooksett Police. How about a blog post getting this
263 information out?
264 JoCarol we did post on the fb page, We are going to do a blog and publicize this but the camera
265 cost money and we have to approve that first
266 Cindy lets do one step at a time and see what happens with the signs. We were hoping the
267 hunters would help us too
268 Sheena maybe in spring we can do clean up in that area and see what is happening

269 **Electronic Bikes on Trails**
270 ***Continued discussion***

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272 **Additional business brought up by the Conservation Commission:**

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274 **2023 Meeting Schedule:**

275 **October 9th meeting date falls on Columbus Day Cindy asked that the meeting be move to**
276 **following Monday October 16th**

277

278 **Jo Carol Annual Report**

279

280 *An article in today's paper about making trails accessible and example of one that has been*
281 *completed in Manchester*

282 *Cindy I think our Riverwalk Trail has been made accessible. It is flat and wide*

283

284 Sheena have you heard anything about the bat houses on the Riverwalk Trail

285 Cindy I have not we need to reschedule a site walk there we had planned to look at everything.

286 ***Motion to adjourn @ 6:17 pm made by JoCarol, 2nd by Bob All in favor***

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

292

293 ***Adjourned:***