

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, February 13, 2023

4:30pm

Hooksett Municipal Building

35 Main Street

Town Council Chambers

I. Open Meeting - 4:38

- II. Attendance/Introductions: Cindy Robertson – Chair, JoCarol Woodburn – Vice-Chair, Robert Better – Member, Philip Fitanides – Member, Deborah Miville – Member, Alex Walczyk – Town Council Representative, Alan Stein – Alternate**
Excused: John Pieroni – Alternate
Not Present: Sheena Gilbert – Planning Board Representative

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Input

Andy Janosz, 39 Main St.: I am here to give my opinion of the dog issue at the Riverwalk Trail. The boat ramp was there first, the dog park was second, and the Riverwalk last. I know there is an ordinance regarding the dogs. Conservation has rights to 25% of the property in Hooksett. Derry has a huge dog park, and other towns have much larger areas for their dogs too. I am a dog owner and I avoid most of the parks because of these issues and people blowing things out of proportion. My dog needs rooms to run, but the town rule says that I can't do that. The Town should be looking at creating a bigger space to exercise the dogs. For children, there are multiple baseball fields, football field, running track, soccer fields, and playgrounds at their disposal. For dogs, all we have is a 100-foot by 200-foot dog park. I think the town should step up and do something about the issue. I think the Conservation Comm should designate some of their land as a dog park that can be fenced in, is big enough for dogs to run, and has room for parking. I don't think the current one should be taken away, but there should be another one created and then evaluate the usage to see if both are needed. I do have the town map and a list of the town properties. I am looking into it myself and I would like to sit down further to discuss having another dog park put in.

V. Consent Agenda

- i. NHDES, Forestry Statutory Permit-by-Notification, File No. 2023-00013, 1/4/23
- ii. NHDOT, Re: Statewide South Guardrail, 43993, 1/5/23
- iii. Finance Department, Transfer – Conservation Account, 1/17/23

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Alex Walczyk, seconded by Deb Miville.
Motion passed.

43 **Alex:** Question on the guardrail; in the letter it says “As a proactive measure the Department
44 would like to request a list of the Town’s preferred/priority mitigation efforts.” I don’t know if
45 we have a list that we could provide, or if there are any?

46 **Cindy:** We don’t that I know of, I will go back and look more into it though. It is still under
47 consideration, so we have time to look into it.

48 **Deb:** Question about Finance Department transfers, the \$8000 and \$10000 that got put into
49 our account, is that a portion of the current use?

50 **Cindy:** When a piece of property is taken out of current use and put into developing it, that
51 money is gone directly in our account. Conservation used to get 50% of it a while ago I believe,
52 and it was changed to 100% in a warrant article. It may have been shared in the past.

53 **Deb:** So other departments get none?

54 **Cindy:** When they are taken out of current use, no.

55 **Phil:** Back to the guardrails, where are they being put in? There was discussion about if the
56 guardrails were enough to prevent a fuel truck from tipping over into Pinnacle Pond, and it was
57 figured out that the State would have to put in special guardrails to protect the environment for
58 those areas.

59 **Cindy:** It is very preliminary at this point. I am not sure on the exact location but there was a
60 rough map provided. I am sure we will receive more information and details as it comes to be.
61 For the priority mitigation efforts that was asked, we will give it more thought.

62

63 **VI. Meeting Minutes Approvals**

64 01/09/2023

65

66 ***Motion to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes made by Alex Walczyk, seconded by Bob***
67 ***Better. Motion passed.***

68

69 **VII. Invoices**

- 70 i. Chairman of the Board Furniture/Scott Masi, 1 Park Bench for \$1100
71 ii. Genest Precast, 1/25/2023, Additional Pair of Park Bench Ends for \$280

72

73 ***Bridgette confirmed that the previous invoices of \$3300 to Chairman of the Board***
74 ***Furniture/Scott Masi, and \$840 to Genest Precast, have been paid for the costs of the first 3***
75 ***benches out of the previously approved amount of \$5000 on 11/24/22, and that these***
76 ***additional invoice amounts are for the additional 4th bench.***

77

78 **Phil:** We are taking advantage of ordering all the benches at once, eliminating the extra 10%
79 charge, and they eliminated the Maine tax too, so we are getting a better deal.

80 **JoCarol:** We also had public input recently that more benches on the trails would be beneficial.

81 **Cindy:** The majority has been paid under the previous \$5000 approved.

82

83 ***Motion to increase amount previously approved \$5000 by an additional \$550, not to exceed***
84 ***that amount, for a total of \$5550 for 4 benches made by Cindy Robertson, seconded by Deb***
85 ***Miville. Motion passed.***

86 **VIII. Appointments (None)**

87

88 **IX. Other Business**

89 i. Invasive Species Management – Continued Discussion

90 **Cindy:** I reached out to Paul Eaton since some of us were interested in going out to Quimby
91 Mountain when he is going. He replied that he is planning on June, and would love for anyone
92 interested to join. I will keep in touch and will plan to reach out in April or May to ask if he
93 could give us the planned dates so that we can arrange for it and to have a rain date in case. We
94 also asked about public notification for spraying, and he pointed out that there are no legal
95 requirements for notification because they are on the NH Prohibited Invasive Plants list. He did
96 say that there are other areas in Hooksett that would require public notification, though, if we
97 decide in the future to move forward with other areas.

98

99 ii. Clay Pond Game Cameras

100 **Cindy:** We are trying to get control over the shooting range. The gate was torn down again, so I
101 reached out to Manchester Water Works, and they have offered to put up a gate for us. They
102 are also interested in putting in the cameras, and we are looking at ones where it would take a
103 picture when motion is detected and send it out in case the cameras are destroyed. The idea is
104 to catch the license plate. We got a complaint that someone living close by could hear the
105 shooting. I reached out to Dan Tatem who had two suggestions, a Bushnell or a Coverts. They
106 are about \$110 a piece and \$35 for the security box, but we don't know if the security box
107 protects from gunshots. We are thinking of one at the gate, and one at the shooting range, so
108 two cameras total. Hopefully for the one at the gate, they won't see it initially, and if the
109 pictures are sent first before it is destroyed, then we will still have their information. Dan
110 offered to help us set them up. The question is whose phone the pictures will be sent to as well.
111 I think there is a monthly charge. The gate camera should go up as soon as possible so that once
112 the new gate is put up, the camera will serve its purpose and be ready. For the shooting range, I
113 am not sure what time of year is best to set it up.

114 **JoCarol:** I think Spring and Summer would be best.

115 **Cindy:** So hypothetically, hopefully we would only need to pay for a few months and then we
116 will catch the person, so from June to August for example.

117 **Bob:** I think during the hunting season in October would be better, I think you will get more
118 people the closer you get to the hunting season.

119 **Cindy:** The issue is that they are destroying the trees and they are littering, gun shells, trash,
120 everywhere. The abutter is quite a distance away but she still hears the shooting.

121 **Al:** Have we approached the police? If it's a criminal offence, can we ask them?

122 **Cindy:** We have not contacted the police about it yet. The abutter contacted us 6-8 months ago.
123 The cameras were a suggestion by Bear-Paw. The police probably would not go out until we
124 catch someone on camera. If we catch someone tearing the gate down, that is a start.

125 **Phil:** A thought is to set up a sandbag area to have for the public to use as a shooting range,
126 there used to be one near the China Dragon. Another way to deter them then is to outlaw using
127 property for shooting purposes because of the pollution from the lead from bullets.

128 **JoCarol:** The easement does not allow for any shooting.

129 **Cindy:** I think the question is just how we stop them. The signs were the first step since that
130 gave them notice. Clay Pond is far out there.

131 **JoCarol:** You really can't get to this area without a truck, too.

132 **Cindy:** The game plan is to minimize the access, so if a bigger truck cannot get in, even if an ATV
133 can, they cannot get as much gear in.

134 **Deb:** Weren't we going to put up bollards?

135 **Cindy:** We discussed it but hadn't, I think we should look into it. The bollards at Riverwalk cost
136 \$1500 each, though, so the question is how far we want to take this.

137 **Alex:** I looked into the Coverts camera, and it looks like there is a subscription plan for a
138 monthly charge for a certain number of photos to transmit them to your phone. I don't think
139 it's too expensive, there was a monthly cost or an annual cost. I didn't look into the Bushnell. If
140 we got identifiable footage, is it sufficient for enforcement? What enforcement would there
141 be? I don't know if it would be enough to prosecute them unless they are in the act of shooting.
142 For the pictures captured, it would be hard to discern who is using the area for shooting, and
143 who is using the trail for recreation.

144 **Cindy:** For destroying the gate at least, hopefully we could catch that. It is complicated.

145 **Deb:** What if Fish and Game could get involved?

146 **Cindy:** That is a good idea, we just haven't gotten that far. Fish and Game has very minimal
147 resources, it is one person covering ten towns.

148 **Alex:** They probably at least have knowledge of what would be considered as proof with the
149 camera, we should check with them on that.

150 **Cindy:** I will reach out to Fish and Game to see what information they have.

151 **Al:** Before the cameras are purchased, too.

152 **JoCarol:** At least to have a camera on the gate to catch them tearing that down, though.

153 **Deb:** Is that the only entrance?

154 **Cindy:** No, there are two. The other entrance is through Candia.

155 **JoCarol:** When I walked the property I thought Rue from Bear-Paw said the gate was going on
156 the Candia side. When we hiked it last fall, you could not have driven down there, but heavy-
157 duty trucks or ATVs could. Bear-Paw holds the easement, and they initially brought it to our
158 attention.

159 **Alex:** I am curious if Fish and Game has an initial suggestion first before we purchase a camera.

160 **JoCarol:** It was a recommendation from Bear-Paw, so we were going under their advisement.

161 **Cindy:** We do need someone who can receive the pictures and monitor that.

162 **Deb:** Could Bear-Paw monitor the cameras/pictures?

163 **Cindy:** Both Rue and Katrina are leaving, our two contacts with Bear-Paw, so that is going to be
164 a delay. Let's put this back on the agenda for March to touch base after I reach out to Fish and
165 Game, and we can think more about who could receive the pictures.

166

167 iii. Purchase of Additional Bench (*Covered in the Invoice section*)

168 iv. T-Shirt Sales Update

169 **JoCarol:** We have new t-shirts, and we have received a check from the library too from sales. I
170 will take some of the new ones to the library since they are selling well there. The new version
171 is clearer. The printing company, Avalanche, is also a Hooksett company.

172 v. March Town Newsletter

173 **JoCarol:** Maybe we could mention something about the t-shirts, or about the shooting area. I
174 will send something to Cindy.

175

176 vi. Friends of Hooksett Trails/Earth Day Cleanup

177 **Cindy:** We have a list of our volunteers. Last year, we did a townwide clean-up Hooksett day.
178 Also, we were supposed to have written permission to clear the bittersweet on Riverwalk from
179 DES. So, we could clean up trash, or we can ask if we put in a request now how long it would
180 take to get an approval.

181 **JoCarol:** Maybe we could focus on cleaning up the shooting range?

182 **Al:** Connecting back to the Bushnell cameras, they can take videos. Also, it is an app, so you can
183 control your notifications.

184 **Cindy:** I wonder if the police would monitor that app for us and if it would go to dispatch.

185 **Al:** I would be willing to have the app on my phone, within reason. I would need more details.

186 **Phil:** The Town Council could have the police monitor it. They have to answer to the Town
187 Council.

188 **Alex:** I can look into it, but I don't know how likely that is.

189 **Cindy:** There is also training for the easement monitoring and training volunteers that go out
190 there. For the cameras, let's start with if Al is willing to have it sent to his phone, he can then
191 maybe relay it to the police.

192 **JoCarol:** They will also need the location of where the shooting range is and a map, we will
193 need to make sure the police is aware of the location. It is a big property.

194 **Cindy:** We could invite an officer to come with us when the camera is set up. We have maps
195 and could give them directions too, and could write more specific directions. Bear-Paw has a
196 map. There is no address, it is acres of woods.

197 **JoCarol:** I do not have a copy of that map though. I will ask Katrina for that before she leaves.
198 The tax map and lot is 4-18.

199 **Cindy:** Back to Earth Day cleanup; it is April 22nd. We don't need permission for cleaning up
200 trash, so I think we should do Clay Pond.

201 **JoCarol:** It is a Saturday and is a townwide effort. We should try to get the ATV and trailer that
202 we had last year too.

203 **Cindy:** That was DPW; Bridgette, please reach out to them to see if they are able to help out on
204 April 22nd.

205 **JoCarol:** There is the kiosk there and parking. Also, it is about a half mile walk down to the area.

206 **Al:** Kiwanis is doing an event called Beautify Hooksett Day.

207 **Cindy:** Yes, our contribution will be cleaning up Clay Pond.

208 **JoCarol:** Shooting out there is a Class B felony too.

209 **Phil:** About the cameras too there is a law that it has to be posted recording in progress in order
210 to be used as evidence in court.

211 **Cindy:** Not on public property.

212 **JoCarol:** For the cleanup, what advertising do we need? We will need to notify our volunteers;
213 last year we had a flier sent out through email. Also, when that email goes out, to include the
214 Commission members as well.

215 **AI:** Kiwanis has a flier on their Facebook page already too.

216 **JoCarol:** We will still do our own flier but will let Kiwanis know of our plans.

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219 ***Motion to adjourn at 5:44 made by Bob Better, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.***

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

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

227

228

229 *Minutes respectfully submitted by Bridgette Grotheer, Administrative Assistant.*