

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, May 15, 2023

4:30pm

Hooksett Municipal Building

35 Main Street

Town Council Chambers

I. Open Meeting: 4:33pm

- II. Attendance/Introductions: Cindy Robertson – Chair, JoCarol Woodburn – Vice Chair, Robert Better – Member, Deborah Miville – Member, Phillip Fitanides – Member, John Pieroni – Alternate, Sheena Gilbert – Planning Board Representative, Alex Walczyk – Town Council Representative (arrived at 4:50)**
Excused: Al Stein – Alternate

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Input (None)

V. Consent Agenda

- i. Finance Department, Transfer – Conservation Account, 3/31/2023

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Deb Miville, seconded by Bob Better. Motion passed.

JoCarol: For the t-shirt sales, this shows \$40, \$60, \$40, and then \$16?

Clarification that the remaining \$4 will be on April's transfers.

VI. Meeting Minutes Approvals

04/10/2023

Phil: Is there any of the discussion details for when we gathered around the maps?

Cindy: It is in the recording.

Motion to approve the April 10, 2023 minutes made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded by Sheena Gilbert. Motion passed.

Cindy: I do want to thank DPW, Parks and Rec, and the Boy Scouts for helping with the Clay Pond clean-up. They were great and it was very successful.

VII. Invoices

- i. Stantec, Merrimack Riverfront Trail Design, 5/4/2023, Invoice #2076491, \$10,359.57.

Motion to approve the Stantec invoice dated 5/4/2023 in the amount of \$10,359.57 made by Deb Miville, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn. Motion passed.

- ii. Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Easement Deed (Lot 3 Ferry Street LLC), Receipt #616351, \$45.63.

Motion to approve the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds receipt in the amount of \$45.63 made by Sheena Gilbert, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn. Motion passed.

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VIII. Appointments (None)

IX. Other Business

i. Riverwalk Phase IV Updates

Cindy: There were no bidders. Dan Tatem was going to reach out to those interested to see if there were certain issues. It may have to be put off until next summer.

JoCarol: Can we try again this year?

Cindy: I am going to wait to hear from Dan. He thinks everyone was just too busy. Everything else is done. We have the right-of-ways, the gas pipes are located, one culvert has to be moved minimally. Everything is good except receiving bids. We received the 80,000 RTP grant, so JoCarol is checking if the money can be saved and used next summer if needed.

John: Could part of it be completed this year to use the grant money?

Cindy: We would have to check with Dan. It's possible someone could complete in the fall if they are too busy now and their other projects are done in August. The first question though is if the grant has to be used by the end of the year.

ii. Trail Maintenance at Pinnacle Park (Continued Discussion)

Cindy: We have Stantec coming out in June to help. We have talked about putting in a waterbar and clearing some of the bittersweet. Bear-Paw is fine with this work as the easement holder. The question is if we have what we need to do this work.

John: I will manage the project and be there for it.

Bob: I'll help too.

Cindy: Dan has said he's done waterbars before, so the question is which materials we need and how we will get them out there.

John: Some 6 by 6's; I think one waterbar is sufficient instead of two. I went back after the heavy rains. They'll have to dig it away, it's all sort of concave.

Cindy: Do you think a square hoe, or a shovel?

JoCarol: We do have a list from the previous meeting of what materials.

John: I will contact Ben at DPW.

JoCarol: We need shovels, picks, a hazel hoe, wood bars, shears for the bittersweet.

John: I think two wood bars, it is a pretty wide area.

Sheena: Isn't the hoe the back end of a pickaxe?

John: Yes. For the wood I can get it from Home Depot.

Cindy: On the sides, are you thinking gravel, dirt?

John: I think just trenched out.

JoCarol: We also need shears or loppers for the bittersweet.

John: The question is what we will do with the bittersweet. There are some big sections. Not far from the trailhead.

Cindy: It does have to go in big black plastic bags to kill it.

JoCarol: If you pull it by the roots, you can leave it to dry up.

Cindy: The transfer station has taken it previously in bags and let it dry up. We have to ask them though if they would again.

JoCarol: I have spoken recently with them, and they said they will work with us.

89 **Cindy:** John, when you reach out to Ben, please include that.

90 **JoCarol:** It's hard to get these big pieces into bags though. Maybe we can just cut it and leave it
91 to die.

92 **John:** And some bags for the leafy stuff. Some of the stuff is really huge.

93 **Cindy:** As long as it's cut from the ground as well, the wind will knock it down eventually.

94 **John:** My idea is to start at the top and then work toward the parking lot to stop the spread.

95 **Cindy:** Maybe some hand saws for this too.

96 **John:** Also, JoCarol, Al and I did blaze and block off some trails so people would not walk off the
97 trail and go to the Waterworks area. I went back after, and the stuff we moved to block it was
98 completely moved away. We put branches out to block off the steep area, that was all also
99 moved. All of the stuff is not even in sight anymore, people completely moved it away.

100 **JoCarol:** Why is that blocked off?

101 **John:** It may be a law. We would need to contact Waterworks. If they don't want people there
102 though, Waterworks would need to be the ones to post it.

103 **Phil:** If Waterworks is a private entity, how are they able to stop people from using town land?

104 **John:** They are not private, they are public. Their budgets have to go before the budget
105 committee for the town, just like other entities within the town. They are a public utility and
106 there are RSAs I believe that cover that. If they were private, then it would still be private land
107 and they would be able to tell people not to be on it anyways. Anyways, there is an active group
108 that continues to do this and destruct areas.

109 **Cindy:** It is bothersome. Why move the signs, why remove the brush? Also, was Council talking
110 about sprucing up Pinnacle?

111 **Alex:** It was along the lines of what options are there to make it more attractive to people.
112 Based on what I heard since it wasn't a specific subject, it came up with Parks and Rec and then
113 Conservation updates, just trying to locate areas on the West side of Hooksett. I think Council is
114 aware of how much picnic tables cost though, I thought of maybe benches since it is a little hilly
115 for picnic tables there. I don't think we can do structures such as a lookout tower, though.

116 **Cindy:** With a picnic table too, we would need to think of having a "carry in, carry out" sign for
117 garbage. The deed of the area is detailed for what is allowed in the area.

118 **Alex:** The Council would be interested to know what is allowed and what is not allowed. Then
119 they would know the parameters.

120 **Sheena:** I was looking at the Master Plan to see what it says regarding Pinnacle, and it is quite
121 vague. *"The town should give serious consideration to working with the current owners of the
122 Pinnacle to preserve it in its current, natural state and ensure its continued availability to future
123 generations for hiking and viewing. The Town may also wish to consider consolidating the
124 Pinnacle with the pond and the contiguous southerly tract into a single, larger recreational
125 parcel."* Last updated in 2020?

126 **Cindy:** I don't think there is a privately owned part anymore, it was acquired in 2017 I believe. I
127 will send the deed for distribution.

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129 iii. Clay Pond Game Cameras (Continued Discussion)

130 **Cindy:** When we were out there cleaning up, we looked for a tree that might work since we
131 don't have a gate yet.

132 **Alex:** Cameras have already gone up in prices since we talked. It seems to be \$170-180, another
133 version that is \$90 for one or \$85 each if you buy two. There are infrared ones, or ones with
134 flash capability which we don't want. There are ones with video also. The name is Moultrie
135 Mobile Edge Trail Camera and you can even buy it on Amazon. One for \$100, two for \$170.

136 **Phil:** Who is doing the programming?

137 **Alex:** Al will be I believe.

138 **Cindy:** And Dan has offered to help set it up.

139 **Phil:** It is complicated though to set up. One of my computer technicians looked into it for the
140 Stone House, and it was not worthwhile.

141 **Sheena:** Security system cameras are very different than game cameras though, it is a much
142 simpler process.

143 **JoCarol:** Dan has done this before too and has said it is easy.

144 **Cindy:** So how many do we think we should get? Two, I think, and with video capability.

145 **Sheena:** I was sitting next to the new police chief at the last Council meeting, and he did say
146 they have an off-roading vehicle, so it seems like they are open to patrolling.

147 **Cindy:** Captain Robie did want to come out as well to see the location, but I forgot to let him
148 know before we went out. He also said they have a camera, and the library offered theirs as
149 well, but we know it is going to be destroyed.

150 **Phil:** Do you know the resolution?

151 **Alex:** Video is 720 pixels.

152 **Cindy:** Let's get two of them.

153 **Alex:** It does require a subscription plan, too. The monthly cost is \$16.99/month. Unlimited
154 images and 50 videos. There is a cheaper standard plan for \$9.99/month, limited to 2000
155 images and 10 videos. But also, it may catch everything; squirrels, turkeys, etc.

156 **JoCarol:** Some do species/animal recognition.

157 **Alex:** Yes, this one can. There is an app for this brand and their notifications.

158 **Cindy:** Let's do the 1000 pictures and 10 videos plan for \$9.99/month.

159 **Alex:** That is the cheapest. The SKU is MCG-14078. The company is Moultrie, Mobile Edge
160 Cellular Trail.

161 **John:** Would we need to wait for Al to get back to really start the process, he is gone June and
162 July, leaving on June 8.

163 **Cindy:** If we don't use Al's phone, whose phone will we use?

164 **Sheena:** I wouldn't mind then.

165 **Cindy:** Alex, please order and then submit the bill.

166 **Phil:** I want to look into it first and the specs. Does it come in different models, what color?

167 **Alex:** This comes in brown.

168 ***Motion to approve up to \$200 for two Moultrie Mobile Edge Cellular Trail Cameras (MCG-***
169 ***14078) and to include batteries, in addition to the additional service fee for three months at***
170 ***\$9.99/month made by Cindy Robertson, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.***

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172 iv. Invasive Species Quimby Mountain Follow-Up

173 **Cindy:** We want to decide a date in June to go out with Keep it Native, Paul Eaton. I think it will
174 be short notice, but just for everyone to keep in mind.

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176 v. Town Newsletter

177 **JoCarol:** I will draft something and send it to Cindy.

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179 vi. Town Owned Properties

180 **Cindy:** Leann sent the list to see if there were ones we were interested in. I said yes we were
181 interested in all on this list, and there were also two more from round two. Some are adjacent
182 or abutters to our properties, others are landlocked.

183

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

185 **Phil:** Did the benches come in?

186 *Clarification that DPW is picking them up on Thursday.*

187 **JoCarol:** I do not remember if we told him where to place the benches. I will send a map that
188 shows the locations.

189 **Phil:** I will talk to Ben and let JoCarol know.

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191 ***Motion to adjourn at 5:35pm made by Sheena Gilbert, second by Alex Walczyk. Motion***
192 ***passed.***

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

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199 *Minutes respectfully submitted by Bridgette Grotheer, Community Development.*