

HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, April 08, 2024

4:30pm

Hooksett Municipal Building

35 Main Street

Town Council Chambers

I. Open Meeting 4:34pm

II. Attendance/Introductions: Cindy Robertson – Chair, JoCarol Woodburn – Vice-Chair, Philip Fitanides – Member, Alan Stein – Member, Robert Better – Alternate, John Pieroni – Alternate

Excused: Deborah Miville – Member, Alex Walczyk – Town Council Representative

Not Present: Sheena Gilbert – Planning Board Representative

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Public Input (None)

V. Consent Agenda (None)

VI. Meeting Minutes Approvals – 03/11/24, 03/21/24

Motion to approve 03/11/24 minutes made by Phil Fitanides, seconded by Al Stein. Motion passed.

Cindy: The second minutes were from a special meeting at the request of our consulting engineer.

Phil: Did we get feedback regarding the insurance?

Cindy: We'll discuss that later.

Motion to approve the 03/21/24 minutes made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded by Al Stein. Motion passed.

VII. Invoices

i. Reimbursement to Sheena Gilbert, \$39.96 total

- Invoice INV06048169, \$9.99, Moultrie Service 12/14/23-1/13/24

Motion to approve reimbursement to Sheena Gilbert for Moultrie Service 12/14/23-1/13/24 for \$9.99 made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.

- Invoice INV06310430, \$9.99, Moultrie Service 1/14/24-2/13/24

Motion to approve reimbursement to Sheena Gilbert for Moultrie Service 1/14/24-2/13/24 for \$9.99 made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.

- Invoice INV06518568, \$9.99, Moultrie Service 2/14/24-3/13/24

Motion to approve reimbursement to Sheena Gilbert for Moultrie Service 2/14/24-3/13/24 for \$9.99 made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.

- Invoice INV06706036, \$9.99, Moultrie Service 3/14/24-4/13/24

Motion to approve reimbursement to Sheena Gilbert for Moultrie Service 3/14/24-4/13/24 for \$9.99 made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.

- 45 ii. Reimbursement to JoCarol Woodburn, \$111.31 total
46 • Flyers for Grand Opening (30 ct.) - \$21.84
47 • Kiosk poster printing 30"x36", poster board, lamination (1 ct.) – \$64.98
48 • Trail map printing 18"x24" (1 ct.) – \$21.94
49 • Endangered species flyers for posting at kiosk (3 ct.) – \$2.55

50 **Motion to approve reimbursement to JoCarol Woodburn for Staples receipts in the total**
51 **amount of \$111.31 made by Al Stein, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.**

- 52 iii. Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, 04/02/2024, Invoice #10259, Fees for Service
53 Jan-March 2024 – \$600.00

54 **Motion to approve invoice #10259 from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways in the total amount of**
55 **\$600.00 made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.**

- 56 iv. Avalanche Screen Printing & Sportswear, LLC, Invoice 1936, T-Shirts – \$229.00

57 **Motion to approve invoice 1936 from Avalanche Printing & Sportswear in the total amount of**
58 **\$229.00 made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.**

59

60 *IX. Other Business, i. Riverwalk Phase IV Updates, was discussed at this point in the meeting.*

61

62 **VIII. Appointments**

- 63 i. Sarah & Alec Derian, 11 Harmony Street – ZBA Special Exception Application

64 **Sarah Derian, 11 Harmony Street:** We are applying to the ZBA for a special exception. We
65 received a variance for constructing within the setback and then realized that it is also within
66 the 40-foot wetland buffer. To go through the proper procedure, we now need the special
67 exception. We need the extra space for our family. There is a pre-existing deck in the location
68 which we were originally thinking of renovating and replacing.

69 **Cindy:** I think this is fine. It is minimal, and it is just in the buffer. What was the square footage?
70 **Confirmation that the total impact area is 179 square feet.**

71 **John:** To clarify, the deck isn't being replaced?

72 **Sarah:** It started by possibly replacing the deck, but now it is going to be an addition since we
73 realized we need more room for our family. We didn't use our deck to start with since it looks
74 over our neighbor's pool and is so close, and it fell into disrepair. So, to replace the deck with
75 the addition makes the most sense for us. Now it will be more private for our neighborhood,
76 reduce sight lines, sound, and overall make it a better space for our neighbors and for us. We
77 got the variance for 4-feet into the setback, and then learned about needing the special
78 exception. We want to be good neighbors.

79 **Phil:** Is this in a wetland or storm area?

80 **Cindy:** Neither; it is just into the buffer.

81 **Phil:** What are the construction materials being used? Pressure treated?

82 **Sarah:** Standard construction materials, again it's not a deck. I don't have the exact information
83 right now.

84 **JoCarol:** What about the height?

85 **Sarah:** It should match the existing house; two-stories.

86 **Al:** We have no concerns, no comments, no objection.

87 **Cindy:** We will make sure the ZBA knows that we have no issue with this. Thank you for coming
88 in.

89 ii. Jose Tapia, Merrimack River Watershed Council – Pinnacle Discussion
90 *Email from Jose: (could not make it to tonight’s meeting) “If it doesn’t rain on May 8th, I can*
91 *leave space for your ConsComm to join me when I present the tour at The Pinnacle. I do also*
92 *have the date of the park opening on the 16th on my calendar though, I’ll be going to that.”*
93

94 **Cindy:** He reached out regarding this interactive tour at Pinnacle, and he was wondering of
95 other trails in Hooksett where they could do this. We recommended the Riverwalk Trail due to
96 its history. On May 8th, they’ll review their interactive tour.

97
98 *Discussion ensued of members interested in attending the walk at the Pinnacle. Time will be*
99 *confirmed and information emailed out to members once available.*

100

101 **IX. Other Business**

102 i. Riverwalk Phase IV Updates

- 103 • Grand Opening/Celebration (Continued Discussion)

104 **Cindy:** Sheena found biodegradable balloons to order.

105 **JoCarol:** And she can have them filled at Job Lot for \$1 per balloon. She said she would get it
106 done. We need to approve the cost.

107 ***Motion to reimburse up to \$10 for the purchase of 24 ct. balloons from Amazon made by***
108 ***JoCarol Woodburn, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.***

109

110 ***Motion to reimburse up to \$25 for helium filling of balloons made by JoCarol Woodburn,***
111 ***seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.***

112

113 **Cindy:** Once she sends in her receipts, we will vote on it to approve the invoice.

114 **JoCarol:** The kiosk has been printed and will be installed, same with the map. We have the
115 flyers, if anyone wants to take some to post around town. The signs at the start and end of trail
116 should be installed by the grand opening. DPW will help install those. We will need signs for out
117 on the street to direct people in, either someone holding or to stake into the ground.

118 **Cindy:** I can do that, I have some stakes.

119 **John:** I have campaign signs to attach a poster to and stick into the ground.

120 **JoCarol:** We need the tables.

121 *Confirmation that Dana is going to pick up the tables to borrow from the library and bring back*
122 *to Town Hall, for Sheena to pick up along with other supplies at Town Hall, including the banner.*
123 Last time our podium was metal, it might have been Kathy Northrup’s. Maybe we don’t need a
124 podium. Al has the microphone and speakers from Kiwanis.

125 **Cindy:** I think skip the podium, the one we have in here is bulky to carry out, it is a handheld
126 microphone. I have scissors, ribbon, and tape. Deb is bringing water.

127 **Phil:** Jarrod would like to play the guitar. I’ll send a video, he plays at a church in Derry. I’ll have
128 him send an email with information to Cindy.

129 **Cindy:** Let’s have it as a possibility to discuss again in May. We can’t envision it and how it will
130 fit into the event.

131 **JoCarol:** We have one more meeting before the opening to finalize. Bob is going to take
132 pictures, Steve Anders will take pictures too. We will sell T-shirts. Maybe we can do a raffle for a
133 T-shirt too.

134 **Cindy:** I don't think we need to do the raffle for a shirt. I guess we can though. Someone has to
135 stay at the table. Maybe Deb could? Let's have it as a maybe.

136 **JoCarol:** For Jarrod, he could play as people are gathering before the event starts. For speakers,
137 we have you and Dave Hess. People should be there by 3pm, we will be out to set up earlier.
138 The event starts by 4pm. I don't know if we'll have flags, Sheena was contacting Boy Scouts.

139 **Phil:** What about for parking?

140 **Cindy:** Parking was fine last time, it won't be an issue.

141 **JoCarol:** Who is picking up the microphone and speakers?

142 **Al:** I have them.

143

144 **Appointment discussed at this point in the meeting.**

145

146 ii. Beautify Hooksett Day

147 **JoCarol:** Anyone coming needs to sign-up, I'm our team captain. There is breakfast for \$12 as a
148 fundraiser for Kiwanis, and then there is a free pizza lunch afterwards. I need the count of
149 people as well.

150 **Cindy:** I'll bring water, we have trash bags. Is DPW bringing materials?

151 *Bridgette will reach out to double check with Parks and Recreation.*

152 **JoCarol:** Boy Scouts may be joining us.

153 iii. Trail Maps/Kiosks (Continued Discussion)

154 **Cindy:** We did get an itemized cost from Dan Tatem. Alex was going to follow up, so we'll pass
155 that along to him and he will talk to André. It is about \$1100.

156 iv. Keep it Native at Quimby Mountain for 2024

157 **Cindy:** We are going to meet Paul Eaton at the Pinnacle on April 16 at 5:30. John and myself will
158 go, and he will give us an estimate of the cost. We'll point out the location near the picnic
159 tables. Then, he sent us an email about doing more work at Quimby Mountain:

160 *"My work at Quimby Mt is now almost entirely focused on decreasing scattered small*
161 *bittersweet plants and new seedlings, which has been successful year-over-year. I also find the*
162 *occasional vine along the perimeter that previously escaped notice. My time is spent thoroughly*
163 *canvassing the entire area. After all the effort, we don't want small plants to become large seed*
164 *producers and start the cycle over again.*

165 *I believe you have 3 options for proceeding at Quimby Mt...*

166 *1. Enlist dedicated volunteers to do the work. The small plants and seedlings should be*
167 *'pullable'.*

168 *2. Contract my services for \$1200 this year to further diminish the plants.*

169 *3. Skip 2024, with a firm commitment for 2025. The logic is that 99% of the surviving plants will*
170 *not be capable of producing seeds this year, so we should be able to skip a year with minimum*
171 *impact. This recognizes that 2025 may see an increase in plants from the seedbank, with a*
172 *corresponding modest increase in my fee."*

173 **Cindy:** I think it is good to have him go to Quimby another year, but either this year, or skip a
174 year and go back in 2025, is the question.

175 **Motion to give Cindy authority to contact Paul Eaton to confirm that the Conservation**
176 **Commission would like to skip work on Quimby Mountain for 2024, and then go back in 2025**
177 **with the understanding that it may be more than \$1200, made by Cindy Robertson, seconded**
178 **by Al Stein. Motion passed.**

179
180 v. Phase III – Town Owned Properties for Review

181 **Cindy:** There are two on the most recent list that are on Chester Turnpike. They are tiny lots,
182 but they abut MWW property. I think we should hang on to them, and maybe MWW or SPNH
183 with want them. I will reach out to them. Also, there were people interested in a dog park.
184 Maybe one of these other properties on the list could be looked into for that, but it isn't our
185 project. Parks and Recreation could look into it.

186 **JoCarol:** Why doesn't the Riverwalk Trail have a dog bag dispenser? To cut down on the amount
187 of trash on the trail.

188 **Cindy:** I don't know what DPW's capacity is, someone would need to be designated to clean it. I
189 wonder if it would help with trash. I think people that are going to litter, are going to no matter
190 if there are bags or trash cans available or not. I think there is a can at the dog park.

191 **Bob:** There is still the issue of dogs off leash on the trail too.

192 **Cindy:** When we did have the trash can, it overflowed and went into the river and we got in
193 trouble. Maintenance becomes the issue.

194

195 **X. Additional business brought up by the Conservation Commission**

196 **Phil:** I spoke with JoCarol about upgrading our website. Jarrod Williams is interested and is
197 working on it, I don't know the cost to maintain it. He is putting together wildlife pictures and
198 videos for it.

199 **JoCarol:** We have our blog, I manage it. Right now, it is free. If we wanted to upgrade it, there
200 wouldn't be ads. I think \$79 a year. Jarrod can reach out to me.

201 **Phil:** I believe we have a disconnect from other boards and committees. With the Planning
202 Board, we should be seeing these plans. There is a 16-unit building being proposed in a wetland
203 area currently. It is in the Performance Zone where it's supposed to be commercial. For TRC, is
204 Conservation involved?

205 **Cindy:** I get invited but do not attend. It cannot be anyone that attends; it is a staff meeting.

206 **Phil:** The TRC information is not available to the public, and I believe it is unconstitutional. It
207 should all be open to the public. There are a lot of people going to the 4/15 meeting for this 16-
208 unit proposal and it is chaotic. Residents and taxpayers should know ahead of time.

209 **Cindy:** You should go to Town Council and express this.

210 **Phil:** They do not know what is going on, they do not have the information. The Planning Board
211 does not have enough time to review it.

212 **John:** Is the Planning Board required to send us site plans to review? Or only if they think there
213 is impact?

214 **Cindy:** We used to look at every plan, wetland impact or not, but there's been change in
215 personnel. When Liz was here a few months ago, she said she would look into plan distribution.
216 Bridgette, if you can check with her again to see every plan that comes in. We had a few quiet
217 years too.

218 **Phil:** For “staff,” how many people is that? I’ve been told it can be referring to just one. It
219 should mean multiple people.

220 **Al:** This is not within the purview of Conservation Commission.

221 **Phil:** Any member should have access to information without an FOIA.

222 **Cindy:** I would talk with André, or go to Town Council and speak at public input.

223 **Al:** Separately; the gate at Clay Pond, are we still interested in cementing that?

224 **Cindy:** Yes.

225 **John:** I can go with you to help do that.

226 **Al:** Also, one of the last coal plants in New Hampshire, the Merrimack Station, is going to be
227 closing.

228

229 ***Motion to adjourn at 5:50pm made by JoCarol Woodburn, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion***
230 ***passed.***

231

232

233 Minutes respectfully submitted by Bridgette Grotheer, Community Development.