

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

April 7, 2010

Rough Draft

Present: Tom Dufresne, Susan Durham, Thomas Davies, Richard Brown, Cathy Hoffman, Peter Baker, Gary Flaherty, Connie Cain – Staff

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. T. Dufresne appointed P. Baker to vote in the absence of Lynne Simonfy.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board of Selectmen – Cathy Hoffman

Next BOS meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2010; appointments for Town Boards and Committees will be voted on and approved. On April 5th, the BOS held an informational meeting on the Woodmont Orchard, they will be discussing at the next meeting. T. Dufresne has sent an email to David Petry, BOS Chair, asking that a BOS representative be assigned to the HCC this year.

Land Protection Study Committee – Peter Baker

Members are working on a list of properties to create a check list of properties which may be in need of further protection. The goal is to potentially work with these owners to protect the land via a conservation easement or some other type of restriction that would allow the property owner to keep and utilize their land for agricultural or other activities, but would preserve the land against future development.

There had also been an update on the Nashua Airport Mitigation plan, with DES possibly be in charge of selecting the properties under this program. P. Baker will update when he has more information.

There were no Planning Board or Treasurer's Reports available at meeting time.

ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

April 17th, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm, participants to gather at the front parking lot of the HBHS for road assignments.

T. Davies has purchased signs for posting around Town, with the date and location. T. Dufresne will ask to place a couple at the Transfer Station, and other members took some for placement on their properties. T. Davies will also speak to Dave Gagnon, Building Inspector, about sign placement on Town properties.

T. Davies has not heard from the Boy Scouts or the Girls Scouts, but will contact their respective Troop leaders to ask for their participation again this year. T. Davies has also attempted to contact the Hollis-Brookline Rotary Club president, but has had no response to date. John Andruszkiewicz informed T. Davies that he will be working on South Merrimack Road near Buttonwood over the next few weeks. The Montessori School has requested that they be assigned Witches Spring Road for the day, since they have younger kids who will be participating.

Joan DeSopo of Transfer Station asked for an estimate on the number of tires expected to be dropped off at the Transfer Station. T. Dufresne noted that Amos White volunteered to remove the tires from the Dunklee site. T. Davies has some bags leftover from last year's clean-up; Jeff Babel had received more from Keep NH Beautiful for use on the day. Street maps and a sign-up sheet will be needed; C. Hoffman will supply, along with hazardous waste flyer, and T. Davies will have a "Safety Sheet" for participants. T. Davies will also contact Lynne Simonfy about writing an article for the local newspapers about the event.

S. Durham commented that areas around Town, especially the Lawrence Barn, look beautiful with all the daffodils blooming. The bulbs were received as a gift from Keep NH Beautiful, due to the HCC's sponsorship of the previous two year's annual event. Bulbs have been planted at various sites, including at the dedication signs on various HCC properties. S. Durham also noted that the Women's Club is holding a yard sale at the Lawrence Barn on the same morning, but it will end in time for residents to participate in both events if they so chose.

OTHER BUSINESS

FLINT POND RESERVE FUNDS

P. Baker has been informed that the Flint Pond Improvement Association (FPIA) has been working towards obtaining private donations and grants for additional work on the pond after the initial hydro-raking and herbicide application. He thought that

any funds not utilized by the FPIA should be returned to the HCC's General Fund. T. Dufresne stated that the FPIA had been in touch with him, and while the HCC has not yet disbursed any funds, they had asked for between \$9000-10,000 for the herbicide application next year.

P. Baker made the motion that there be no further allocation of funds, and that the remainder of the funds left in the reserve account be returned to the HCC General Fund by December 31, 2011; seconded by T. Dufresne. All members in favor of returning any and all funds left after the requested amount of \$9000 - \$10,000 was disbursed to the HCC General Fund, none opposed. Motion carried; staff will obtain the actual request amount and inform members. (Clarifications: This reserve fund is a separate fund from the BOS Flint Pond Reserve Fund, which was voted on at March 2010 Town Meeting. C. Hoffman informed members that the amount requested was \$9800, and the remainder of \$14,700 will come from a grant from NHDES. CC)

HCC PROPERTY FUNDING

Town residents have been enquiring about how the HCC uses the funds procured from the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT), and if the funds can be used for other than Conservation. In 1997, the Town voted to split the LUCT, with 30% of the LUCT going to the HCC with a cap of \$30,000. In 1999, this was amended to 50% of the LUCT with no cap. P. Baker felt that it would be helpful to have available some information on how the HCC has spent the funds used from the LUCT split. This would help answer specific questions and would clarify some points that several Town residents had made regarding how the money could be spent. P. Baker has also asked Paul Calabria, Town Finance Officer, for a list of what funds had been received since 1997. S. Durham felt it would also be important to have some data from other Towns in the area, especially those where the Conservation Commissions receive 100% of the LUCT. The information should include the percentage received, when it was voted in, and what they've accomplished with the funding.

John Eresian had created a report to show the cost to taxpayers between developed vs. non-developed properties, for use in the Woodmont East purchase. P. Baker felt this could be updated and used to illustrate some of the reason that the HCC receives funding via the LUCT. The NRPC may also be able to create the update, using J. Eresian's report and updated information.

WHALEBACK PROPERTIES

Beaver Brook Association closed on the 4 properties on March 31, 2010. The BOS felt that the easement needed to be created prior to expending any HCC funds on the easement; P. Baker will be working with Fred Lyford and Peter Smith of Beaver Brook on the document and hopes to have the final draft document to the HCC by the May 5, 2010 meeting. Beaver Brook would still like the funding from the HCC since it used some of its operating funds to purchase the property until the HCC funds could be released.

MEADOW DRIVE – PENNICHUCK POND DOCK

A letter had been received from DES regarding ownership of the property where the floating docks are located. DES was asking the Folz's to prove ownership of the property. Members felt further clarification of the request was needed; DES will be contacted for further information.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

G. Flaherty mentioned that there were new interim rules regarding wetlands, with the soils and plants lists changing. He will update the HCC when more information is available.

WORKSHOPS

T. Dufresne reminded members that the NH Special Places Annual Meeting would be held on Saturday, April 10th; members could sign up online until April 9th. UNH Coop will be giving a presentation on costs of preserving land; which may be helpful in a variety of ways.

MINUTES

T. Dufresne motioned to accept the minutes of the meeting held March 17, 2010; seconded by G. Flaherty. All in favor, none opposed, and minutes were approved.

ADJOURNMENT

T. Dufresne motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by T. Davies. All members in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Cain
Staff