

HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

April 2, 2008

Approved April 16, 2008

Present: Tom Dufresne, Susan Durham, Cathy Hoffman, Ray Lindsay, Richard Brown, Gary Flaherty, Lloyd Deenik, Thom Davies, Connie Cain-Staff

Also Present: Sherry Wyskiel – Trails Committee; Peter Baker & Lou Candito – Land Stewardship Committee; Craig Birch –Town Forester

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Treasurer's Report

Not available at meeting time.

Land Protection Study Committee – Thom Davies

T. Davies stated that not much was going on at the moment; they are still working on existing items.

Planning Board – Cathy Hoffman

At the Planning Board meeting of April 1, 2008, the following items were addressed:

- Flint Rock Subdivision, West Hollis Road – site walk is scheduled for April 15th at 5:30 pm. They will be marking the centerline of the road and the most sensitive of the vernal pools that exist on the lot. T. Dufresne asked if his email address could be added to list of those getting the PB agenda. C. Hoffman will pass this request to Virginia Mills, Planning Board Secretary.
- Elizabeth Woods, 84 Depot Rd, minor subdivision of one house lot into two.
- Strategic Planning Committee gave final joint report to the PB & BOS. After discussion the PB thought that instead of creating a Master Plan Committee, they would potentially delegate reports to the various Boards and Committees that oversee that topic, e.g. the HCC would report on conservation. The last Master Plan update was completed in 1998. C. Hoffman will keep the HCC updated.

LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Peter Baker and Lou Candito

T. Dufresne asked P. Baker how the LSC would like to define the role of the LSC. P. Baker felt that it would be best if the LSC were a subcommittee of the HCC. S. Durham suggested that members of the LSC be appointed as alternate members of the HCC; both P. Baker and T. Dufresne agreed. Although this had been discussed at a previous meeting, the BOS were not made fully aware of the agreement. C. Hoffman suggested that T. Dufresne email Troy Brown, Town Administrator, and explain how the HCC would be assimilating the LSC as a sub-committee. C. Hoffman will send out appointment letters to the members of the LSC for signature and oath.

T. Dufresne had asked P. Baker to come up with a list of items that the LSC could address for the HCC. P. Baker came up with the following:

- Baseline monitors for the Hall easements. T. Dufresne informed P. Baker that he had asked Craig Birch to attend meeting to discuss boundary marking. P. Baker and C. Birch will work together to accomplish.
- 9 DRED signs to be placed on the appropriate properties.
- “No Motorized Vehicles” signs to be placed on problematic properties, e.g. Woodmont West.
- Sign for Parker Pond.
- Inventory of Conservation signs and description, per Town Hall request.
- Establish trail standards in conjunction with Trails Committee if necessary.
- Other items that could be considered stewardship.

S. Wyskiel stated that the Trails Ordinance is in the process of a rewrite. Discussion of trail issues including maintenance and defining trail use. P. Baker suggested setting guidelines for usage. Further discussion regarding water crossings on trails. P. Baker will draft guidelines and send to T. Dufresne.

T. Dufresne asked if the LSC wanted guidance from the HCC; P. Baker stated no, but would like the HCC to come up with a list of additional tasks. T. Dufresne asked if the LSC needed funds for these projects; P. Baker stated not huge amounts, but may need small amounts for the purchase of various items, such as bolts etc., from time to time.

T. Dufresne motioned to authorize P. Baker to expend up to \$100 for purchases for LSC, seconded by T. Davies. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

T. Dufresne has been informed that there is a potential boundary encroachment issue on property owned by the HCC on Wright Road. A property owner has built a paddock that extends on to Conservation Land. T. Dufresne has inspected the property, and based on the boundary markers that C. Birch placed there a few years ago, it does appear that the paddock is partially on Conservation Land. A survey will need to be performed to determine the actual boundary line.

T. Dufresne stated that there are other properties with similar issues; he would like to put together a list and present all properties to the BOS at one time for enforcement. T. Dufresne would also like to place signs on conservation properties along the boundaries where encroachment is an issue. T. Davies asked about differentiating between HCC and Town property; T. Dufresne felt that signs did not need to be placed on Town properties. L. Deenik asked why these properties needed to be brought to the attention of the BOS. T. Dufresne stated that the HCC is an advisory board and therefore cannot enforce the laws pertaining to these matters; the BOS have the authority to enforce. C. Hoffman felt that this was a code enforcement issue, which would be dealt with by Dave Gagnon, Building Inspector.

S. Wyskiel asked about the Walker and Wright properties, is a survey to be conducted on those properties? C. Birch stated that the Walker property had a survey in the past, but probably needs to be redone; he will check on Wright to see when last performed.

(P. Baker, L. Candito and S. Wyskiel left at approximately 7.45.)

BOUNDARY MARKING

T. Dufresne asked C. Birch to attend tonight's meeting to discuss boundary marking and signage. T. Dufresne would like C. Birch to mark the boundaries for the HBHS easement area per request of Chris Kane, Wright property on South Merrimack Road, and both Hall easements on Pepperell and Dow/Depot Roads. Some discussion of what type of signage to place, T. Dufresne and S. Durham will find out what is available and costs. G. Flaherty will also bring some samples of signs.

T. Dufresne would also like to perform a selective cut on some of the HCC properties, similar to the one done two years ago on the Nashua River lot. C. Birch will pull together a potential list and present to the HCC at a later date.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

C. Hoffman informed the HCC that Harriet Hills passed away on March 28th. The memorial service will take place at the Congregational Church on Friday, April 4th at 11:00 am. She has ordered a flower arrangement to be delivered from the HCC; T. Dufresne stated that when she receives bill to submit for reimbursement. The BOS will be donating \$100 to the Ambulance Service, as requested by her family. C. Hoffman and T. Davies will attend the service as representatives of the HCC.

S. Durham attended a recent meeting at the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. The Town of Mason will be joining the NRPC. The proposed rail line from Boston is moving ahead; plan is to have the rail line come in to Nashua and then Manchester and possibly Concord. The new owner of the railroad company

is more cooperative, and they feel that the project may get off the ground. Jill Simenti of NRPC may attend HCC meeting to discuss various items; she will be making an attempt to visit all NRPC towns. T. Dufresne suggested contacting the NRPC for signage about hazardous waste days to post at the Transfer Station, and also getting flyers for those dates to hand out on Earth Day.

OLD BUSINESS

EARTH DAY PLANNING – APRIL 19, 2008

Lynne Simonfy had emailed the HCC with publicity and scheduling details; notices/articles have been placed in the Hollis Times and Hollis-Brookline Journal with date and time. More support has been received from the Hollis-Brookline Rotary Club for this year's event. The Hollis Cub Scouts will take part in the roadside clean up as part of their Environmental Badge. T. Davies reiterated that hourly count per person would need to be kept, so that the Town will be in line to receive either 2 elm trees or 800 flower bulbs for planting, determined by the total hours spent on the project. C. Hoffman asked about road assignments, T. Davies stated that he needs to know which roads are in most need of clean-up, felt at the maximum, a 2-mile stretch of road would be the most allotted to a group or individual. Some roads that are in need are South Merrimack Road from the Amherst line to Silver Lake Rd; Farley Road from South Merrimack to Pine Hill Road; Broad Street from the center of Town to the Nashua line; Pine Hill Road from the Nashua line to approximately Lavoie's Farm, and Proctor Hill Road, from the center of Town to about a mile or so past the Transfer Station. All felt these were high profile and traffic streets where trash does tend to accumulate. Some discussion of safety issues for those persons participating; do not want to send children to work on South Merrimack Road. Base of operations will be set up at the HBHS front parking lot; T. Davies will be there by 8:00 am to set up tent and sign for event. All HCC members will be in attendance on the day.

BENNETT PROPERTIES – Rocky Pond Road

Winthrop Bennett, owner of 2 land-locked parcels off Rocky Pond Road, has sent a letter to the BOS, asking them to purchase the 2 parcels. These 2 parcels are contiguous to Conservation Land. T. Dufresne will reiterate previous offer made to Mr. Bennett.

MINUTES

Review of minutes from meeting March 19, 2008. R. Brown motioned to accept minutes as written, seconded by T. Dufresne, all in favor, none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by T. Dufresne to adjourn meeting, seconded by R. Brown. All in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cain
Staff