

# HOLLIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

August 20, 2008

Approved September 3, 2008

Present: Susan Durham, Thomas Davies, Cathy Hoffman, Gary Flaherty, Connie Cain –Staff

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Susan Durham, Vice-Chair, appointed Gary Flaherty to vote in the absence of Tom Dufresne.

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES**

*Board of Selectmen – none.*

*Planning Board – Cathy Hoffman*

The Planning Board met on Tuesday, August 19, 2008. Discussed at the meeting:

- Presentation by Mark Archambault of the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) on a proposed intermunicipal agreement for watershed protection for the Nissitissit watershed. The NRWA is trying to get both Massachusetts and New Hampshire communities together to preserve the Nashua Rivershed area. C. Hoffman felt the HCC could be involved via the Stormwater Committee as the preservation of this area is one of their objectives.
- Tom Dufresne and G. Flaherty presented the wetland buffer markers and the placement of these along important wetland areas. The PB was supportive of the placement.
- Hollis Hills Development proposed subdivision was tabled.
- Woodmont East lot line relocation was approved.
- Site Plan for the Hollis Post Office was approved. C. Hoffman noted that this was done as a courtesy, as the Federal government is exempt from regulations.
- Amos White of Bentley Management Group was in regarding the gravel and soil storage operation, and is being required to present a site plan for review on the property at the intersection of Depot Road and Twiss Lane, 009-059-001. There has been a complaint about the use of the property from an abutter, and the PB has asked Mr. White to present a site plan; he will also need to present a stormwater plan as part of the site plan review.
- Stawasz property, Ridge Road. This plan was originally presented to the PB approximately a year ago. A complaint was made to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), who after inspecting the site, found no violations and will not be involved in the property further. The public hearing for this property will be September 16, 2008.
- There will be a public hearing on the proposed ordinance for the use of Town lands on August 25, 2008 at 7.00 pm as part of the Board of Selectmen meeting. This ordinance states in more specificity what uses are allowed or disallowed on Town owned properties.

*Land Protection Study Committee – Thom Davies*

T. Davies stated that the LPSC has not met since the last HCC meeting. As far as he is aware, items previously discussed in non-public session are proceeding.

*Treasurer's Report – Thom Davies*

As of August 6, 2008, there is a balance of \$534,523.37 in the HCC account, of which \$39,122.00 is in reserve for Stewardship and Flint Pond. The remaining balance of \$495,411.37 is available as cash.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *Clyde Collishaw – Geocache Placement*

A Mr. Clyde Collishaw of Nashua is involved in a Geocache organization and would like to place one of their boxes on the HCC land on Rocky Pond Road, aka 029-033. Geocaching is very similar to orienteering and involves placing a small plastic resealable container on the property along with noting the approximate location with GPS coordinates. The container includes about 6 small prizes along with a logbook so that people participating in the Geocache program can list their names and other information. Mr. Collishaw has submitted a letter explaining the organization and what they are trying to accomplish by participating in the program (which is essentially to get people out to enjoy the open spaces around the country); an approximate location of the placement and picture of the container, and the items to be included in the container.

T. Davies motioned to approve Mr. Collishaw's request, seconded by G. Flaherty, and subject to the following conditions:

- 1.) Location to be approximately 0.2 miles north of Rocky Pond Road, along the existing trail. Placement is to be within 20 feet of trail.
- 2.) Placement of the cache will not disturb the soil; and no digging will occur as part of the placement.
- 3.) No hazardous materials may be placed within the Geocache container or on Conservation Commission land.

All members were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried 4-0-0.

### *Bill and Joyce Tilley, 150 Rideout Road, 014-078 – Removal of trees on Conservation Commission Property at 014-077*

Mr. Tilley had contacted Town Hall staff regarding the removal of six white pine trees along his boundary. These pine trees are sited just over the property boundary, within striking distance of his house, and he would like permission to remove these trees while he is having others removed on his property on August 25 & 26, 2008. Both C. Hoffman and C. Cain inspected the site this morning with Mr. Tilley to determine the striking distance and to view the trees in question. Upon inspection, it was noted that the trees are at the bottom of a 10 – 15 feet drop-off from Mr. Tilley's side yard, located on the property boundary, are approximately 80 feet high and are well within the striking distance to Mr. Tilley's residence. A tree blaze was clearly seen from Mr. Tilley's yard, and is assumed to mark the boundary. Oak trees and other species were observed in the general area, which Mr. Tilley stated that he does not plan to remove nor is he requesting to remove, it is just the 6 white pine trees. It was the opinion of C. Hoffman and C. Cain that given the location of the trees and the proximity to the house, that if one of these trees should fall over in the direction of the house, Mr. Tilley would suffer significant property damage and seriously injure anyone in the house at the time. Given this fact, and that the region has received record rainfall over the past 6 months, C. Hoffman and C. Cain felt that his request was reasonable and should be considered by the HCC. C. Hoffman took pictures of the site and the trees in question, and presented them to the HCC.

Discussion ensued, and based on this, S. Durham motioned, seconded by C. Hoffman, to allow the removal of the six (6) white pine trees, subject to the following conditions:

- 1.) Trees shall be inspected and marked by either a Conservation Commission or Forestry Commission member prior to cutting;
- 2.) No more than the 6 (six) pine trees as indicated during the visit to the property made on August 20, 2008 by Cathy Hoffman and Connie Cain shall be removed without prior permission;
- 3.) Felled trees shall be removed from the site;
- 4.) No stumping allowed on Conservation Commission property;
- 5.) A Conservation Commission or Forestry Commission member shall inspect the area cut upon completion.

All members were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried 4-0-0. C. Hoffman stated that she had spoken to Ted Chamberlain, Forestry Commission, who would be willing to inspect the trees prior to the cut. C. Cain will draft a letter to Mr. Tilley, giving the conditions as listed, and give to Mr. Tilley this week. S. Durham signed the waiver of property use to cut the six trees in question.

#### *WINTHROP BENNETT PROPERTY – Logging Operation, Rocky Pond Road*

Mr. Bennett approached HCC Chair Tom Dufresne regarding crossing over HCC property at 029-033, Rocky Pond Rd, in order to perform a logging operation on his two lots adjacent to HCC property. Mr. Bennett's two parcels, 023-033 and 029-036, are land-locked with no access. T. Dufresne inspected the sites with Mr. Bennett and the trail that Mr. Bennett proposes to use to gain access to his sites. T. Dufresne did not have any issues with the proposed use and signed a waiver of property use to that effect. The property and trail will be inspected again after completion of the cut to ensure that the trail was not damaged during the operation. Since T. Dufresne has approved and signed the waiver, no vote is necessary.

#### *DES Letter – Alfred Fulchino, 026-014, 187 Pine Hill Road*

The Town received a letter from the DES, informing the BOS that a complaint has been filed for Mr. Fulchino's property as above. The complainant felt that Mr. Fulchino was encroaching on wetlands via his use of the property as a vineyard and the greenhouses erected on the site recently for the small nursery business operating on the property. C. Cain informed HCC members that Mr. Fulchino had applied for and received building permits for both greenhouses, and that the property has been recently inspected both by the Building Department and Assessing Offices. The property in question is considered unbuildable due to seasonal wetness on the property. Both G. Flaherty and C. Hoffman stated that agricultural use is exempt from wetland rules. T. Dufresne had inspected the property with the owner approximately a week ago, and it was his opinion that due to the heavy rains over the past 6 months, the area appeared to be wet but is not. There are large puddles on the property, and it is assumed that the complainant thought that it was wetland. He did not view any potential wetland infringement by the vineyard or greenhouses. The DES inspector has not visited the site as of this date to the best of HCC members' knowledge.

#### *NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION – “Great Places”*

S. Durham, along with other HCC members, has received a letter from the NRPC asking for nominations for the “Great Places” contest as part of the National Community Planning Month, sponsored by the American Planning Association. The NRPC is looking for “favorite places” that foster social interaction and creates a sense of community. C. Hoffman stated that a similar contest was held last year regarding “Great Streets”, for which Monument Square was nominated. C. Hoffman noted that the BOS had also received the same letter, and she had passed on the letter to Kim Dogherty to nominate the Lawrence Barn for this year's contest.

#### *TOWN PROPERTY INVENTORY*

C. Hoffman stated that C. Cain has been working on an inventory of the Town properties, and asked C. Cain to elaborate. C. Cain stated that an inventory of all Town properties is under way, with the first draft copy going to C. Hoffman this week. The goal of performing the inventory to ensure that properties are listed correctly in regards to Committee oversight and to record further information about the properties, such as old lot names and restrictions on properties. To the best of C. Cain's knowledge, this type of database has not been created for Town properties in the past. Once the initial draft is complete, she will pass this on to the HCC for further input.

The next step, once the Town properties are completed, is to inventory all the privately held protected properties, along with Conservation easements either held by the Town or privately. C. Cain stated that

the Town property inventory would be complete in time for inclusion in the 2009 Town Report, with the private properties inventory to be completed later in 2009.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *FLINT POND UPDATE*

On August 12, 2008, the DES held a meeting/hearing with members of the Flint Pond Improvement Association (FPIA). Dick Drisko, NH State Representative for Hollis; Tom Dufresne, Peter Baker and Don Ryder, representing the Town of Hollis, also attended the meeting. The FPIA would like to return to the original plan of hydroraking channels through Flint's Pond to facilitate the use of boats on the pond. DES via the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) retested the sediment of Flint's Pond for arsenic and found them to be well above the acceptable levels. This test was similar to the testing performed in 1997, and went deeper into the pond bed than the recent testing performed by ChemServe of Milford. With these test results, other governmental agencies must be involved both on a State and Federal level, and must give their approvals prior to the start of any proposed work, as the plant life and soil to be removed is considered hazardous waste. This will significantly increase the cost of hydroraking or dredging, as Federal guidelines for the removal of the plant/organic materials must be followed. The DES filing fee for this type of plan is \$10,000, and may be subject to other fees. D. Ryder also relayed, via C. Hoffman, that the cost of hydroraking has gone up, the estimated cost for the channels is now at \$80,000 – 85,000. S. Durham stated that T. Dufresne had related that he could not approve such a plan. C. Hoffman stated that her opinion was that if the channels were cleared, the work would need to be done again within a few years; it would not solve the weed problem and would not be cost-effective.

### *OLD HOME DAYS*

T. Davies had not gotten definitive word back from the Old Home Days committee confirming the booth, but did not feel it was an issue. He felt that a theme should be decided on, since there is only one more HCC meeting prior to Old Home Days.

Proposals for displays were:

- General maps of Town;
- Shoreland Maps and pamphlets that G. Flaherty had recently brought in regarding the new rules and regulations. Cathy can make maps of the water bodies in Town subject to these rules.
- Stormwater information;
- Buffer sign display and information about the wetlands buffers;
- Town land ordinance information, if passed;
- LPSC brochure on how to protect land from development. C. Hoffman has copies of the LPSC brochure; S. Durham has copies of the one from Nichols-Smith Land Trust;
- Hazardous Waste Days information and schedule;
- Mercury disposal information;
- Information from the Transfer Station regarding recycling;
- Display of pictures from Roadside Clean-up day;
- New resident packages;
- Bushel of apples – S. Durham will pick-up from Brookdale. C. Cain asked about getting apples from Woodmont, thought would be in keeping with continuing public awareness about Woodmont properties. S. Durham would try to get from Woodmont.
- Sign-up list for new Land Stewardship Sub-committee members. Peter Baker is in need of additional volunteers;
- Sign-up list for those residents interested in learning more about the HCC.
- S. Durham asked about handing out daffodil bulbs to be received; T. Davies did not think would be in by Old Home Days.

T. Davies asked that HCC members think about the list given for topics and if they have or can get informational handouts on any of the proposed display items, to please do so and bring them in for the next meeting. S. Durham stated that the banner needed to be located by the next meeting; T. Davies thought it was in the HCC file cabinet at Town Hall (it is not). The tent is either at his or T. Dufresne's house. He will locate and have for set-up on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### *SIERGIEWICZ CONSERVATION LOT*

L. Simonfy put together a press release for the donation from the Doris R. Siergiewicz Revocable Trust of the "Conservation Lot" of approximately 22 acres, and submitted to the HCC for approval. The consensus of the members present was that it was very well written, and members complimented L. Simonfy on her skill in writing the notice. This will be issued to the press in the near future for publication.

#### **MINUTES**

Since there was not a quorum of members that had attended the last meeting, approval of minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by T. Davies to adjourn, seconded by C. Hoffman. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried 4-0-0; meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cain  
Staff