

Huntington Conservation Commission
Minutes 9/13/07

Approved as amended 10/11/07

Present: Dyhan Nirmegh, Tim Taft, Wally Jenkins, Aaron Worthley, Amy Dohner, Robin Worn, Steve Hagenbuch.

Guests: Tyler **Miller**

Amy Seidl, Megs & Duncan Keir for HHCT Hanson Field Application

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm.

1. Mail, minutes, etc.

The upcoming AVCC meeting was discussed. It will take place October 27th at Vermont Technical College. A list of those interested was started, with the possibility of 5 attendees from the Huntington Conservation Commission.

The minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and corrections made. The minutes were approved as amended.

August meeting minutes were approved as written.

2. HHCT Hanson Field Application

The HHCT is hoping to enroll the land in the current use program and rent to a farmer to cover the taxes. They plan on one acre of community gardens. There will be a 100' (or 50') riparian buffer. The Vermont River Conservancy is looking at purchasing this buffer as an easement along the river. Megs Keir is very concerned about losing the local control of the buffer area to the VRC. There was discussion about the criteria and restraints of the easement being unclear because this is a new program for the VRC. Deliberation of the application followed with more discussion about the buffer. Tim questioned if there should be limitations on the amount granted per application with possible limits by percentage of total project cost. It was decided this could not be implemented on this application because there are no written guidelines at this time. Setting up guidelines should be discussed at the next HCC meeting.

A motion was made by Steve Hagenbuch to recommend that the select board consider the HHCT's application (with the inserted change of a 50-100' buffer as discussed and noted in the application), with the support of the Conservation Commission.

The HCC requests the opportunity to consult with the drafting of the VRC easement.

Wally seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Aaron is hoping to have the application consider at the October 15th Selectboard Meeting.

3. Home Tour

Robin and Amy reported that no additional progress had been made since last meeting. Amy wondered about piggybacking with NRG's Home Tour which is being held on the 6th or 13th of October. NRG's contact is Abby White. There was no response on Brett Hamilton's side. Amy Seidl is interested in participating but Lawrence Mott is not.

Amy was thinking about a front porch forum to work with NRG in Huntington then possibly doing our own tour in the springtime.

4. Misc. letters & Updates

- Aaron reported the Planning Commission received the letter from Robin about the Zoning Administrator having access to permitted properties. They should be responding to the letter soon.
- Aaron also reported **The Huntington Ancient Roads Committee** found an 1801 survey of an ancient road from Stage Rd. up to our town forest and into Bolton.
- Steve's letter to the Selectboard was received and responded to. They are not considering sale of the current town forest until more information comes forward on the Charlie Smith property. The property was appraised at approximately \$800,000-900,000. An offer has been made by Forest Legacy and is being mulled over.
- Park and ride update – Wally is waiting... Amy has **heard** concerns about the lighting.
- E-coli - Next week is the last e-coli testing.
- Hollow Rd. Wetland - Robin wants to be kept informed about the progress. Aaron said we would be informed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

Preliminary agenda for Oct. 11th meeting:

Conservation Fund Policy
Scenic Comparison Scale
Budget
Final AVCC attendance
Hanson River easement if available.

Minutes prepared by Tim Taft