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May 5, 2008

HUNTINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 13, 2007

Approved 1/10/08

Commissioners present: Amy Dohner, Steve Hagenbuch, Wally Jenkins, Nirmegh, Robin Worn, Aaron Worthley

HCC Zoning Permit Application Checklist

Sub-committee of Steve, Nirmegh, and Aaron drafted checklist to assist the Zoning Administrator and permit applicants in identifying natural resource regulations that may apply

Discussion on how best to achieve goal of making sure regulations are adhered to

- Who is responsible?
- Who is liable if regulations aren't followed?
- What is our best role in this, and what should the zoning administrator be doing?

Amy wonders if everything is covered, and wants to make sure list is comprehensive. One addition would be information on the two water districts in town, and the regulations pertaining to those.

Steve suggests that we meet with the Zoning Administrator to get his input, and after that we may want to talk with the town lawyer.

Aaron will tune up the draft and send a copy to the Zoning Administrator for his comments

Robin and Steve point out that there are state resources in print that help landowners make good decisions about development and protecting natural resources

Aaron questions the effectiveness of swamping permit applicants with information

Carpooling Campaign

- Amy would like to do more to promote carpooling
- Wally gave a brief update on the Park and ride lot and noted that it doesn't seem to be getting much use
 - Waiting for signage and lighting
 - Residents perhaps unsure of its availability now
 - Wintry weather and perhaps newness of project perhaps factors
- Some possible ways to promote carpooling and the Park and Ride lot
 - Times Ink article
 - Announcement at Town Meeting
 - Coordinate with the town Energy Committee
 - Amy will make contact with the Energy Committee and we will go from there

Conservation Fund Application Guidelines

Aaron states that the HHCT generally supports the proposed change in the application guidelines

Wally expressed some concern that large projects that need more funding than allowed under this proposal might be lost

Amy and Aaron stressed the need to provide prospective applicants with some guidance regarding the amount to request

After some discussion on specific wording, Robin made a motion to change "intended" to "recommended" in the first sentence and to omit the second sentence. Motion approved.

Aaron will send the following statement to Ed Wildman for review by the Selectboard;

- "Grants awarded from the Conservation Fund are recommended to be no more than 25% of the total cost of any project, not to exceed \$50,000.

Budget

The FY08 Conservation Commission budget has been submitted. The Selectboard has decided not to meet with Aaron at this time regarding details or changes

Charlie Smith Farm

Aaron reported that the Charlie Smith Farm has been sold to Timbervest, a timber management company

It is his understanding that Fountain Forestry will do the management

We will alert the new owner that the town is still very much interested in the property should there be any changes in their plans

Scenic Comparison Scale

Neither Aaron nor Robin has had time to work on this but will try to do so by the next meeting

Wally suggested that full participation by HCC members in evaluating properties would result in the most useful data

Ancient Roads

The Ancient Roads Committee would like to see how the Selectboard plans to use the data the Committee has gathered

Aaron would like the Selectboard to consult with the Conservation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Recreation Committee before making any decisions

Prior to Selectboard's meeting on this the HCC should review the findings of the Ancient Roads Committee