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May 17, 2010

Approved meeting minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC)
April 8, 2010

Meeting began 7:05pm, adjourned 9:14pm

In attendance: Wally Jenkins (chair), Roman Livak, Margaret Fowle, Amy Dohner, Alan Brace, Laura Hill Bermingham

Wally called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- Roman moved to approved March meeting minutes with edits
- Unanimous approval

No public questions or comments

HCC Organization

Clerk's position

- The Selectboard cut funding for the HCC clerk position in FY 2010-2011
- Wally mentioned to the Selectboard that he felt as if the HCC's budget was overcut (34% from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011) relative to other town budget line items
- The Selectboard does not object taking funds out of Purchase/Services of the HCC budget to pay the clerk
- Roman motioned to pay the clerk through FY 2010-2011 through purchase/services
- Alan seconded
- Margaret and Wally vote yay, Laura abstains as she is both the clerk and a voting member

Term guidelines

- Amy's 4-year term was up as of Town Meeting 2010 and she is stepping down after 5-6 years of service on the HCC
- Amy was also the Treasurer and explained how budget updates and invoices are handled
- Thank you Amy for your years of dedication and service! You will be missed!
- Alan asked what happens when a commissioner's term expires, and Wally explained that the commissioner would have to write a letter to the Selectboard if you would like to stay on the commission

New members

Sally Hillary came into the meeting at 7:30 to discuss her interest in joining the HCC

- Sally has been a resident of Huntington since 1996 and is a teacher in the Vermont school system
- She has been actively involved in the Keeping Track team in Huntington
- Sally mentioned perhaps leading a tracking Special Places if nominated to the commission

- Sally thinks one of the pressing issues in the town is transportation, and she is most interested in education/outreach and planning
- Sally found out about the position through word-of-mouth (Margaret and Wally)

Cassandra Wilday joined the meeting at 8:30 to discuss her interest in joining the HCC

- Cassandra is a relatively new resident of Huntington, and she moved here to be closer to her kids who are Huntington residents
- She is a Huntington community gardener and a retired landscape architect
- Cassandra is interested in the Huntington Town Forest, and has worked for the Forest Service and natural resource planning
- Cassandra found out about the opening through the Front Porch Forum, and word of mouth (Margaret)

Wally mentioned to each candidate that the HCC will make a final decision no longer than 1 month from today's meeting

Town Forest

- The errata stickers are here for the State of the Forest reports
- Wally sent some to Heidi and will put the remainder in the left-over reports
- Ed confirmed that Mike Snyder will be on the May 3rd Selectboard agenda to present the State of the Forest report and Town Management Plan
- Mike will discuss the pros and cons of designation
- Alan is concerned about state regulations
- Margaret thinks we need to secure access and trail designation first
- Laura pointed out the order of recommended activities in the State of the Forest report (designation is 3rd on the list)
- Margaret will make sure the State of the Forest reports with errata sheets get to Ed by April 19th so the selectboard members can review the report before the May 3rd meeting

Conservation Fund

- The discussion regarding using conservation funds for access is tabled for now
- It will be kept on future HCC agendas
- Can the HCC initiate potential Conservation Fund projects?
- Wally will get on the Selectboard agenda for an upcoming meeting to ask this question.

Sugarmaker's Wrap Up

- Laura wrote a "wrap up" article for the Times Ink about the event
- Laura will send Sugarmaker's thank you letters

Salamanders

- Wally has been in contact with Jim Andrews of Herp Atlas regarding conservation efforts for salamander crossing across Gore Rd in Buel's Gore.
- The land is currently for sale in this crossing "hotspot"
- Jim recommended contacting the seller to inform and educate on how not to interfere

- with the salamander's migration route
- Wally will draft a letter and email it to the HCC before sending it to the seller

AVCC Annual Meeting

- April 17, 2010 meeting
- Wally is attending

Other business:

Lighting grant

- Wally mentioned that he did not get the grant for lighting the HCC nature photography event
- Wally is going to write a grant proposal for a Ben and Jerry's grant opportunity
- The total needed is \$400

Adjourn:

Alan moved to adjourn at 9:14pm, Roman seconded, unanimous approval

Date unapproved minutes to town clerk: April 11, 2010
Date approved minutes to the town clerk: May 14, 2010