

**Approved meeting minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC)
February 10, 2011**

Meeting began 6:07pm, adjourned 8:04pm

Commissioners in attendance: Wally Jenkins (chair), Roman Livak, Margaret Fowle, Alan Brace, Sally Hillary, Laura Hill Bermingham, Cassandra Wilday.

Wally called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- November, December, and January meeting minutes approved with amendments

No public comment

HCC meeting time

- At the April 2011 meeting, we will start meeting at 7pm
- November – March = winter hours, 6-8pm
- April – October = summer hours, 7-9pm

Clerk salary

- Alan asked where the clerk salary situation is currently
- Wally explained that Laura will remain the HCC clerk through the fiscal year (July 2011) but the selectboard denied funding an HCC clerk salary
- The HCC may advertise for a volunteer minute-taker or rotate among commissioners

Sugarmaker's Open House, March 26th, 2011

- Laura sent Sally information from the Sugarmaker's Open House in 2010
- Sally called local sugarmakers and is in the process of contacting others who may be interested in getting involved
- Margaret Taft took care of the first press release and sent Sally a checklist (end of February deadline for finishing the brochure)
- Sally will revise the brochure for 2011 by the deadline and email Heidi a copy
- Alan will drop off paper to Heidi and disseminate the brochures to all sugarmakers prior to Town Meeting on March 1
- Sally will email the brochure to Laura and Wally and one of them will update the website
- Wally will get the Open House on the town calendar (11am – 3pm on 3/26)

Election of officers: Chair and Treasurer

- **Alan nominates Wally for Chair, Margaret seconds, unanimous approval**
- Wally's term ends in March 2011, and he prefers being on the commission from year-to-year rather than the full 4-year term

- **Laura nominates Margaret for Treasurer, Roman seconds, unanimous approval**
- Officers terms will begin as of the March 2011 meeting

Photo Show

Big success! Good turnout on opening day, lots of photo submissions
It was good public relations for the HCC

Further promotion

- Laura made some photo show posters, which Wally hung around town and in Richmond
- There are many cards available at the library, but they are not selling
- Wally will email people with cards to discuss options and will post a Front Porch Forum ad about cards for sale
- Roman made the suggestion to bring the cards to Beaudry's, Margaret said we could have a table and sell them at Town Meeting (9-12pm)
- Laura will set-up table at Town Meeting starting at 8am and Alan will help, Margaret will do the 9-10am shift, Wally will do the 11-12 shift
- Laura will email Heidi to get a table
- Other things to include at table: Alan suggested "conservation ideas" for townspeople to write down and submit, Laura suggested the State of the Forest Report (Wally noted there aren't enough to give out) and Conservation Fund applications

Revenue

- \$265 for 53 entries as income to the Conservation Commission and/or HCC and the library
- Plus card sales (50% to conservation fund)
- **Roman made a motion to donate \$65 to the library for their assistance in the photo show, Alan seconded, unanimous approval**

Expenses

- Wally doesn't need reimbursement for additional track lights because it was covered under the original funds

Awards and prizes

- We have 6 prizes in \$40-50 range and 5-6 in \$25 range
- Best of Show, People's Choice and 1st place winners = more expensive prizes
- 2nd place and honorable mention = less expensive prizes
- Prizes will be drawn out of a hat at the next meeting and Wally will email winners

Calendar, another show

- Do we want to use the pictures for a calendar, or plan another show?
- Alan looked into pricing calendars with a single picture, and the cost may be prohibitive to have 12 individual pictures

- Margaret will look at shutterfly.com – it may be cheaper on the internet for a full calendar with 12 pictures (it would require digital photos of submissions)
- Sally can check with the graphic arts program at her school to see if it would be a project they could take on
- All commissioners were in agreement in hosting another photo show

Special Places Tour or other programming

- Wally suggested a May 2011 Burnt Rock Pond hike
- Wally encouraged commissioners to use their expertise on the hike rather than having a single “expert”
 - Laura = spring ephemerals
 - Margaret = birds
 - Wally = salamanders, dragonflies

Conservation Fund preparation

Wildlife corridors and prime ag land = Wally’s choice for most important factors

Wildlife corridors

- Jim Andrews in Salisbury is hosting a tracking workshop soon (Wally and Sally are attending)

Prime Ag soils

- Gather existing data on soils
- Call in outside experts to interpret soil maps in Huntington
- Farmer’s panel?
- Margaret will download the 2008 ag soil data layer
- Margaret has gone to Hinesburg and Shelburne with Danny Peet, who is with the Williston NRCS; she confirmed that the soil maps are accurate, etc.
- Other priorities?
- Laura will speak with a friend who does wildlife corridor work and the Field Naturalist Program and Walter Poleman at UVM to see if students may be interested in taking on a project
- Margaret will download a few GIS data layers and overlay them on a map
- Margaret will bring in a laptop and projector to view the maps

Being proactive

- Commissioners discussed potential conservation fund projects
- Wally encouraged commissioners to be proactive in talking to landowners

Land conservation book

- Margaret will resend a press release email that may be a good reference book for the HCC to have about conserving land
- Alan’s big question -- How to approach landowners in a positive way?

No other business

Future meeting agenda items:

- Funding energy efficient projects in town
- Huntington GIS map presentation of Margaret's

Adjourn: Roman moved to adjourn at 8:04pm, Cassandra seconded, unanimous approval

Date unapproved minutes to town clerk: February 11, 2011

Date approved minutes to town clerk: