

RECEIVED 
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**Meeting Minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission
March 19, 2013**

Commissioners in attendance: Cindy Sprague, Margaret Fowle, Leah Korce, JB Bryan, Roman Livak (left at 7:40), Jim Sadler (arrived on 7:32)

Meeting called to order at: Cindy calls to order at 7:08

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- February minutes approved; Cindy motioned to approve; Margaret seconds- all in favor
- No mail

Public Questions and Comments:

- No public questions and/or comments

Organizational Meeting:

Elect chair/co-chair:

- Cindy and Margaret are willing to serve for one more year but then would like to find replacements
- Roman motions 6 month nomination for Cindy and Margaret; Leah seconds. All in favor
- Revisit chair nomination in September 2012 meeting

Processes (ie sign-on letters, etc):

- Letters of support can be okayed by email- no change from discussion in February meeting

Conservation Fund:

- Change criteria to have 2 month lead time for HCC to consider request.
- What are the details regarding tax incentives for land or monetary donations
- Is there overlap with HHCT?

Meeting dates and time

- Third Tuesday of every month; 7-9 pm

Other

- New HCC member packet is from 2006- Leah would like to update it but doesn't have the accurate information; Leah will talk to Barbara for details, and then make draft and circulate
- Acknowledge Caitlin Jenness as official note taker.

Current Project Updates

Salamanders:

- 105 crossing signs are being printed this evening- 21 are for the HCC
- Gary will invoice the commission
- Locations for signs- Wooded hillside on one side of the road and pond/wetland on other. Will need to be put up on Gillette Pond road; Buels Gore; by Alpaca Farm on Main Rd.; Audubon-Sherman Hollow Rd; Texas Hill Rd/Circle; Delfrate; Hinesburg Hollow Rd.; Mayo Road
- Roman left to help make salamander signs (7:41)

- What are the ways to increase visibility for people who are out monitoring crossing areas?
- T-shirts- logistical challenges, most likely not happening

Sugarmakers Open House– final tasks

- Roman will take photos at sugar makers open house
- Heidi will put out sandwich boards after storm

Riparian buffer project –

- Roman is interested in helping Margaret with outreach/phone calls to land owners

Invasive Species

- Update on recent meeting in Hinesburg- draft map created there for ‘Host your neighbor event’ in prioritized area- Huntington is in mid-low priority. Keith Thompson, county forester, is working on management plan for Town Forest regarding invasives. Also, potentially will map school property and town office land.
- Update on wild parsnip removal plan for 2013- AOT BMP document- cutting timing, cleaning practices for mowing equipment, regulations about moving soil which may have seeds
- Do we make recommendations and present to the Selectboard?

ECOS grant – volunteer coordinator, HCC involvement

- Leah cannot make meeting due to scheduling conflict
- There is no money in the budget for Huntington to do any fieldwork. Could Aaron and Dori advise on recommendations for Town Plan?
- How can we get field verification? Any other grants available? Can Conservation Fund pay for this work- perhaps we can find match for it? HCC could make proposal to Selectboard for use of fund.

Other opportunities – Vermont Coverts Training

- Woodlands for wildlife- 3 day cooperators training. June 7-9; September 6-8
- HCC could potentially sponsor training for member(s) interested in attending

Town Plan

General review & discussion:

- Must figure out what is timeline for recommendations with Planning Commission
- Goals should align with implementation plan- format of town plan could be more streamlined
- Nothing about flood protection in land use district- insert something about riparian buffers to reduce flood risks
- Places to insert invasives- land use section encouraging landowners not to plant invasive species. 22&23 of implementation section is on invasives- insert at beginnings of sections background of issue- what they are & where they are
- Update information about river E.coli
- What do we want to write and what do we ask Planning Commissions to write
- Leah would like to put together draft

- Update on flood information- have had 2 major flood events since last town plan
- More with energy and climate change- should have larger climate change statement that includes energy conservation.
- Add salamander map- any other maps?
- Does timeframe allow inclusion of information from ECOS grant? Should we try to include ECOS info or establish what's important through town plan, and then let ECOS grant fuel decisions- town plan provides blueprint for how to interpret ECOS results.
- How to get towns people to weigh in on what is important- process to include both computer and paper preferences
- Steering committee meetings for ECOS grant were monthly- Jim is finding less time to be able to go, but will let HCC know if he can't make it and perhaps someone will go in his place?
- Deadline and direction would help HCC work effectively on Town Plan
- Recreation and Open Space section- first 4 recommendations have to do with HCC

Other business

- Remainder in Town Clean Up Fund of \$2000 that we can use however we see fit; up to municipality to use as we see fit. Could it cover disposal costs of parsnip we collect? Electronics disposal? Something coordinated with Green Up Day? What do other towns do?

8:54 JB motions to adjourn meeting; Margaret seconds- all in favor

Action items/Next Steps-

All- Look at regulations around Conservation Fund to evaluate where language needs to be changed to include 2 month lead time for requests

All- Look at AOT invasives BMP for guidance on forming suggestions and recommendations

All- Read through pertinent sections of Town Plan thoroughly by next meeting

Roman- Explore trust fund development/ tax implications for donations to Conservation Fund

Leah- Check in with Barbara Elliot about updating member packet

Cindy- find contact in Hinesburg to get permission to post signs in Hinesburg or sell them the signs

Margaret- Pass dates along about riparian planting efforts; Roman willing to help make calls

Roman- email when signs are ready and Cindy will coordinate posting of salamander signs

Jim- follow up about invasives plan with road crew

Margaret- talk to Aaron about options to fund mapping in Huntington and who might work on it; also talk to coordinator of Association of VT Conservation Commissions.

Caitlin- get wireless password for town office

Margaret- reach out to Planning Commission to determine timeline for Town Plan- would they like to meet with us?

Leah- Draft town plan recommendations