RECEIVED
DATE June 20, 2013

APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission
May 28, 2013

Commissioners in attendance: Cindy Sprague, Margaret Fowle, Rebecca Ryan, Leah Korce, Jim Sadler,

HPC members in attendance: Dana Cummings, Knox Cummin, Julia Austin, Everett Marshall

Cindy calls meeting to order at 7:10

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- 4.16.2013 minutes approved
- no mail

Public Questions and Comments:

- No public questions and/or comments

Meet with HPC regarding Town Plan

- What is HCC's role- HPC wants comments on comparison between existing and new town plan, and also feedback on what is not addressed in town plan.
- HPC is following new structure with town plan from state's planning document. Goals are visionary; objectives are specific.
- HPC is trying to simply town plan and make it more readable & engaging.
- Target date for Town Plan- Huntington formally needs to submit rewritten town plan by end of 2013.
- HPC wants specifics and verbiage for suggestions from HCC.
- Information on climate change will go on energy section. Climate change- ties to maple industry and river for extreme weather events.
- Invasives section- HPC not sure how to address invasives species within document. Non regulatory sections are already happening; however invasives wording would be helpful in accessing grants. Information needed on specific invasives and what exacerbates and mitigates problem. If HCC adds 'program', make sure it ties up to objectives & goals.
- Potential Policy: ECOS will inform future decision making
- Is the Town Plan the PR tool for conservation fund?
- Air quality- mentioned in goals but no in remaining natural resources. This is covered in energy section.
- Working landscape section- should this be included in economics section?
- Protecting area viewsheds ties to economic plan
- Is an animal welfare section possible?

Land Use Section

- Discussion of districts- absent in new plan- need explanatory sentence for districts
- Policy/Objective 1- "form based planning" based on the form of the village, adaptation of specifics that already exist, try to have existing look and feel of village. Tries to move development closer to the road.

- Village Districts will have form based planning; remaining districts exempt from form based planning regulations
- Zoning regulations derived from Town Plan
- Protecting uplands/mountain tops from development missing
- Prime agricultural soils discussion missing form land use section

Rivers

- Roman suggests language to address river
- Planning Commission intends to add section on floods
- Containing and channelizing the river creates long term consequences- buffer planting could mitigate this
- Is there anything the town can do to address riparian buffers in land in agriculture- conventional wisdom suggest 50ft for a vegetative buffer- would be minimum, however would be step in right direction
- New plantings on riverbank renovations are susceptible to major flood events
- HCC can request report "Huntington River Corridor Plan Update 9/14/09" from VT Agency of Agriculture

Review HCC Budget

- $650 in purchased services funds available

Project Updates

Community mapping project 5/29/2013

- Little luck getting folks to commit to going

Salamanders

- Signs should come in sooner, as they are being stolen
- Do drivers become numb to them if they are out too early in the year?
- Permanent posts update: Roman's looking into it.

Poison parsnip

- Barbara has Invasives Best Management guidelines- need to ensure these are discussed with road crew

Host your neighbor event

- 10-15 people is ideal for gathering
- Need to pick date- evenings or weekends are better

CHNSA invite

- All HCC & Selectboard invited to Nil's house on Saturday June 1st at 9:00 to walk trail- contact Dave if interested in attending

Cindy motions to end meeting, Roman seconds, all in favor

Next Steps

- All- by June 11th- send Leah comments on draft sections of Town Plan

- Leah Korce will take lead on organizing comments for sections- and then we send edits to Dana for Natural resources section; Knox for Land Use.
    - HPC really want feedback on goals & objectives
    - Graphs, maps, pictures to include in Town Plan
- Next HCC meeting HCC will confirm input for town plan
- Write sentence to include in Town Plan to advertise Conservation Fund
- Roman & Margaret- look at old study done on viewshed exercise
- Roman- talk to Yogi about permanent posts to determine costs for 10 posts
- Jim & Roman- talk to Yogi about poison parsnip best practices- mowing, and continued cooperation with pick-ups. Identify what areas they won't get to so that HCC can cover those.
- Margaret- ask Aaron if he needs any tools for river projects.

Draft minutes sent to Town Clerk: 6/2/2013 Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk: 6/19/13