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DATE July 24, 2013

****Approved** Meeting Minutes**
Huntington Conservation Commission
June 18, 2013

Commissioners in attendance: Cindy Sprague, Margaret Fowle, Rebecca Ryan, Leah Korce, Jim Sadler, JB Bryan, Roman Livak

Others present: Dave Brautigam- Camel's Hump Ski Association

Margaret calls meeting to order at 7:12

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- Roman motions to approve; JB seconds- all approve
- No mail

Public Questions and Comments:

- Please see "Town forest trail discussion" below

Town Forest Trail Discussion:

- CHNSA would like to have permission to cut and grade cross country ski trail in Huntington Town Forest
- Proposed trail covers basically flat terrain and excavation work will be minimal and on dry ground
- Management plan for Town Forest was drawn up by Mike Snyder years ago- at time there were issues with securing access to Town Forest because of private land
- Woodlot recently purchased near Camels Hump Ski Association by Remo Pizzagalli enables more access to the town forest for CHNSA
- There may be issues with parking and traffic for some neighbors
- Ski center offers annual land use permit for land owners with option to withdraw at any time- permanent easement would not be popular
- CHNSA might have to make amendment to their Act 250 permit to do the trail
- CHNSA would like to cut route before snow flies, wait to do excavation work until ACT 250 is reviewed and amended
- CHNSA proposes swath will be 10-12 feet; it is currently flagged
- Roman proposes HCC should make recommendation and pass along recommendation to Selectboard at next meeting, which means Selectboard will act in August
- Margaret proposes HCC find time to walk the trail as a group- 2 hrs
- Question if trail needs to be groomed which may make the trail wider with larger impact
- All will review town forest management plan before coming to decision

Town Plan Review

- Potentially too early of a draft to offer constructive comments
- Lack of continuity in document
- Cindy suggests we need a clearer document to review

- Goals and objectives seem very similar: goals should be simplified with 1 or 2 major goals per section, objectives should have metrics
- Not current priority of HCC to provide detailed comments when still in draft form
- Also difficult to assess & comment without seeing Town Plan in its entirety
- 1999 survey has been used in 2 town plans, so perhaps is no longer relevant
- VT Natural Resource Counsel- Jamie Fidel- provided feedback on town (email May 2012)- pass these comments to HPC
- To add fluidity and make it easier to follow: Have each corresponding goal, objective, policy, and program be listed together by topic
- Reference regional planning commission document
- Perhaps HCC should use RPC for technical writing part of it?

ECOS grant-

Community Mapping Project

- This was outreach events of ECOS grant to get feedback of what the community values most
- Intention was to get cross section of the community to see what they value
- Done in anticipation of receiving Arrowwood results to then incorporate qualifying data with identifying data
- 6/17/13- reviewed overlaid maps as a group

Next Steps

- Arrowwood needs permission from land owners to do field verifications- HCC needs to help gain permission from landowners for access
- HCC should call land owners first- explain intentions of project, tell them to look for letter in mail, ask that they sign it promptly.
- HCC is a bit behind on this, so acting promptly is important.
- This is verification that computer maps are accurate (Roman cites Enman example- by allowing, landowner won't have to pay to prove lack of deer yard for future developments)
- Land owner can go along with field agents and ask any questions they want

Invasives

Road side mowing

- Key areas: Hinesburg Hollow Road, Top of Taft Road, East Street, near Community Garden on Main Road,
- HCC should put blurb in FPF about identification & management
- Roman is working with road crew to inform and advise- mowing should happen ASAP

Host your neighbor event

- Rethinking outreach list- include anyone who is interested in invasives and invite them instead of targeted land owners
- Think about whether we want to have pizza party, potluck, beverages
- Focus is getting people there and educating them

Budget

- $240 for note taking

- Cindy requests using $100 for Vermont Coverts Fund training-will take it out of next year's budget. All HCC agrees Cindy can use funds to pay for VT coverts training without official motion.
- Field verification for ECOS grant- did not get grant for this and Huntington needs to come up with funds
- Richmond & Bolton are paying for their own field verification

Roman motions we allocate $1000 for field verification of ECOS grant; Jim seconds – discussion ensues
Roman makes amendment: **Motion Pay Caitlin $240 for note taking, allocate to ECOS field verification $600, and donate remaining balance of this fiscal years budget to the 4Winds program at Brewster Pierce (roughly $400); JB seconds- all in favor- amended motion passes**

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

Next Steps

- All- look at Town Forest Management Plan to assess whether CHNSA trail fit with intended use
- Margaret- email to determine when a time a group could meet to walk proposed trail
- Margaret- draft note to Planning Commission summarizing HCC feedback, circulate among group to review
- Jim- look for VT Natural Resource Council email to circulate to group & reach out to Jamie to see if is willing to have dialogue about this
- Jim- check on how much field verification would cost & what Huntington needs to raise
- Leah- forward CCRPC "Keeping our air clean" document to group
- All- quick look at Stowe town plan for style and format (not content)
- Margaret-post in FPF about identification & management of poison parsnip
- All- Think about who you want to invite to host your neighbor event and what would make it fun and interesting to attract attention.
- Jim: mail permission letters for field verification by friday
- BY FRIDAY (6/21) phone calls on behalf of Arrowwood study:
    - Roman: Ken Abazia, Rosemary King/Sheldrakes, Enmans/Sleepy Hollow
    - Margaret: Edward Burdick
    - Jim- Foundation for Sustainable Future, Lynda Swannie, Knox Cummin (through Everett Marshall)
    - Cindy- Duncan & Megs Keir
    - JB- Lucinda Hale & John Scott
    - Rebecca- Chris Clark (or new land owners)
    - No one has yet offered to reach out to Timbervest Partners or Johnes Moore Trust

Draft minutes sent to Town Clerk: 6/19/ 2013 Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk: 7/18/13