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DATE September 19, 2013

Approved Meeting Minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission
July 16, 2013

Commissioners in attendance: Cindy Sprague, Rebecca Ryan, Leah Korce, Margaret Fowle, Roman Livak

Cindy calls meeting to order at 7:15

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- Roman motions to approve minutes; Rebecca seconds- all in favor
- Field verification letters are being returned to HCC

Public Questions and Comments:

- No public questions and/or comments

Town Plan Update

- No updates- Margaret is still working on letter to Planning Commission with recommendations and suggestions
- Planning Commission now has timeline to complete

Budget follow up

- It is clear the HCC budget money could not go to the ECOS grant.
- This fiscal year, HCC should try to avoid last minute rush to use budget- better planning for use of funds throughout the year is needed.

ECOS Grant

- Still significant amount of funds are needed for field verification
- Returned field verification letters: 3 no's; all others so far 'yes'
- Field verification may not happen because of funding
- Wait for next meeting with Jim present to discuss next steps

Host Your Neighbor Event

- Intention- small and personal, with personal invitation and RSVP so people will come
- Educational and informative with social time to encourage people to come
- HCC cannot provide alcohol at Town sponsored events
- Potential host- Mark W. on East Street; Sarah Jane Williamson
- Format of event- Keith will make information available, lead small talk, and then field walk to identify and learn about management strategies.
- Time frame- after other towns have hosted theirs to learn from them.
- End/middle of May 2014, on a week day – Perhaps Thursday May 15th (in lieu of HCC meeting for May); starting at 6pm (sunset ~8:15)
- Entertainment?
- This could be catered with pizza and dessert out of HCC budget

Project Updates

Town Forest trail walk (FMP review)

- Suggested dates for walk- Sunday, September 15th from 3-6 or October 6th 2-5
- No one has had time to look at Forest Management Plan- all should review FMP and State of the Forest Summary before walk

Parsnip control update

- Flood created crisis so mowing has been de-prioritized
- Now if it is mowed the seed will be spread
- Next year get mailers/fliers out to be proactive about education. Educational insert in times ink- would want this to go in May & June Times Ink
- Perhaps Richmond will pay for their own and could do outreach to Richmond as well
- HCC wants town to put money aside to do parsnip cutting

River monitoring volunteer opportunity

- Still some vacancies for testing spots along the river- contact Aaron Worthley if interested

Fall Special Places event

- 250th anniversary of Town of Huntington
- What would be appropriate to celebrate this occasion?
- Celebrating history of town- is this HCC's role?
- What else could we feature about the town? Town Forest Walk? Huntington River?
- What if instead of event we wrote a piece for Times Ink?
- Special places for the winter- Sue Morse
- Something in November to get people out when things start to slow down?
- All HCC should keep thinking about what could be a fun thing to do.
- Trying to include kids- coordinate with Stacey at library to do something afterwards
- Cindy could lead child-focused herp event at library (similar to event she did in Orwell)

Other business

- Leah is returning records indexed and organized- fantastic!
- Margaret won't be here for August meeting

Roma motions to adjourn meeting, Cindy seconds, all in favor

Next Steps

- Rebecca- will email to clarify if there is money to cover field verification for list letters were sent too
- All- follow up with list field verification letters were sent to, remind people to send in
- Cindy- email Keith to see if where other Towns are at with their host your neighbor event & talk to Sarah Jane about potentially hosting

- Rebecca- start thinking about poison parsnip flier for next year; ask what is distribution for Times Ink to get cost estimate to budget around
- Margaret- determine date for Town Forest walk (9/15/13 or 10/6/2013)
- Margaret- resend documents about Town Forest to review before town walk
- All- need to review Forest Management Plan and state of forest report to see if trail use is consistent with intentions

Draft minutes sent to Town Clerk: 7/18/ 2013 Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk: 9/18/2013