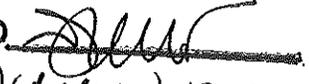


RECEIVED 
DATE October 17, 2013

**Approved Meeting Minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission
September 17, 2013**

Commissioners in attendance: Margaret Fowle, Cindy Sprague, Roman Livak, Rebecca Ryan, Leah Korce, JB Bryan (arrived 7:45)

Guests in attendance: Jim Whitehouse & Morgan Whitehouse

Margaret calls meeting to order at 7:10

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- Roman motions to approve minutes; Cindy seconds, all approve
- No mail

Public Questions and Comments:

- No public questions and/or comments

Project Updates- General review of projects and point person assignments

ECOS

- Jim cannot attend these meetings anymore. Rebecca is willing to attend but needs to know meeting schedule. Cindy can attend if Rebecca cannot, and Margaret is also interested in being involved.
- Next meeting November 4th beginning at 7.

Invasives

Regional meetings/Host Your Neighbor:

- Cindy is coordinator of this event & would love support when it comes time for organizing actual event.
- Meetings for group are second Tuesday of the month at Hinesburg Town Hall.

Wild Parsnip Removal Education

- Margaret has been working with Heidi on this
- Over winter Rebecca will pull together resources to consider for educational/promotional materials
- HCC should ensure that there are funds written into the Town budget to cover timely mowing
- 2014 will hopefully have better mowing schedule and more outreach

Mapping of Public Places

- Keith is looking for guide to show him around Town Forest for mapping of invasives- Margaret will walk with him. Other HCC members can join as well.
- No invasives were noted in Town Forest Management Plan.

Special Places Tour- Fall and/or Winter Event

- Bert Dickerson gave permission for hike up Little Baldie

- What is maximum number of participants? Typically limited to 15-20- but a limit may not be necessary
- Advertising: Front Porch Forum & Beaudry's- advertise that it is strenuous hike that includes bushwacking. Not suitable for all children.
- Half day in length- start at 9:30 and bring lunch
- Date: Sunday October 6th; Rain date the 14th
- Beginning at Cindy's house- 480 Salvas Rd.- don't send details until people RSVP
- *"Walk led by Conservation commission members, explore flora, fauna, and fungi along the way"*

Town Plan

- Wait to hear from Planning Commission to determine who among HCC will be point person
- Leah volunteers to be point person.

Audubon Letter: Audubon requested letter of support and separately, funding from conservation fund to support trail remediation from July 3rd storm Flood Damage.

- Section of trail they are requesting funds to repair is well traveled, overlooks Beaver Pond and connects trail to Birds of Vermont museum
- Caused by culvert failure on Sherman Hollow Rd.
- Roman supports writing letter of support, however does not want to commit funding at this point.
- Letter of support is separate from commitment of funding from HCC
- Total cost of Project is \$25,000; requesting \$1,000 from HCC
- Margaret can tailor previous letter of support to submit to them for this grant
- **Roman motions that Margaret drafts letter of support to circulate to HCC for approval, and then if approval is gained via email then send signed copy to Audubon; Rebecca seconds- all in favor. Motion passes.**
- Roman questions if Conservation Funds use is appropriate by non-profits; and would like to walk the trail before making a decision
- Leah supports use of funds Margaret recuses herself from conversation because she is employed there
- **Leah motions that we recommend to Selectboard that they approve \$1000 of Conservation Fund for use by the Audubon; Roman seconds motion- Cindy, Rebecca, and JB in favor; Margaret & Roman abstain from vote. Motion passes.**
- Rebecca will draft letter to Selectboard recommending the expenditure

Land Conservation Grant Opportunity

- Opportunity to apply for money to support land conservation projects
- Is there better piece of property that is up for sale other than our current Town Forest/
- Should HCC do outreach looking for options of suitable land for funding?
- Would Swannie parcel be suitable fit? 141 acres on Mayo Road for \$295K; includes river frontage. Roman suggests 70 acres on Charlie Smith Rd.
- Next meeting- set aside considerable time to consider feasibility of applying for grant
- Draft of grant would need to be figured out by November

ECOS-

- Huntington has 50 hours of field verification in grant

CHNSA requests/Town Forest Walk Update

- Roman does not want excavators on land- Do these trails need to be groomed?
- Higher up there is a woods road that has stream crossings in place already
- CHNSA plan is to do minor clipping and open trail as un-groomed trail for 2013; and bring in excavator in Fall 2014 to make larger groomed trail for 2014/15 winter
- Expansion of trail as planned could invite motorized recreational vehicle use in off-seasons.
- HCC could recommend that it stays un-groomed and small narrow back country trail.
- Town Forest management plan is clear that snow machine usage should be banned except for woods work and emergencies
- **Roman motions that we make recommendation to Select Board that: CHNSA put in back-country trail from Pizzagalli's to Catamount Trail and that it is routed on existing logging road over stream crossings to exclude necessity for drainage work, and that no motor vehicles are utilized in this effort. JB seconds the motion. All members in favor. Motion passes.**

HCC Recommended List of Books

- Leah found this in records from 2006
- Could we update this? To discuss at another meeting

Roman motions to adjourn meeting, Margaret seconds, all in favor. Motion passes.

Next Steps

- Rebecca- check in with Kathleen about scheduling for ECOS meetings
- Roman- explore costs for roadside parsnip mowing and prepare rough estimate for what town should appropriate in budget for invasives mowing
- Cindy- contact Keith Thompson to see when he wants to walk Town Forest to assess invasives
- Rebecca- draft advertisement for special places hike and circulate to group for approval
- Margaret- draft letter of support for Audubon ASAP
- Rebecca- draft letter to Selectboard recommending use of Conservation Funds for Audubon by September 23. Call Barbara to discuss timing for Special Hearing needed for use of these funds.
- Cindy- put feelers out to townspeople about other land conservation opportunities (FPF, Heidi's Huntington email list)
- Leah- review requirements of federal conservation grant
- Margaret- Talk to Bob Heiser at Land Trust about tax credit opportunities and VHCB funding
- Margaret- draft letter to Selectboard regarding CHNSA (ideally for Select Board meeting on 23rd)

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

Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk: 10/16/2013