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DATE December 23, 2013

Approved Meeting Minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission
October 15, 2013

Commissioners in attendance: Rebecca Ryan, Margaret Fowle, Cindy Sprague, JB Bryan (arrived at 7:30)

7:15 Cindy motions to call the meeting to order; Rebecca seconds

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- **Margaret motions to approve minutes; Cindy seconds. All in favor; motion passes.**

Public Questions and Comments:

- No public questions and/or comments

FY 2015 Budget

- Level funding for 2015- reallocating line items
- Dues and training- funds needed for conservation commission dues, or for trainings that occur
- Workshops and programs- should also include money for food at workshops
- Change workshops to $500
- Supplies- $140
- Purchase services to $490
- Dues and training- $120
- FICA- $38

Cindy motions to pass edited budget, Rebecca seconds; All in favor. Motion passes.

New HCC Chairperson/ Co-chair appointments, member recruitment

- Cindy's term expires in March 2014; at present is considering not continuing to serve on Commission
- Margaret had extended term for one year, which ends in March 2014, and is planning on finishing in March
- Margaret & Cindy will continue to co-chair until March
- HCC needs to start recruiting members, and needs to consider chair/co chair replacement
- Jim Stadler is on hiatus- at least one new member should be found in the short term

Community Forest Grant Opportunity

- Behind elementary school- expensive and not for sale
- Sleepy Hollow Parcel- 84 acres for $299,000- a lot of wetlands
- Mayo Rd. parcel- $295,000 for 141 acres- waiting on appraisal of Mayo parcel from Town.
- Grant is due January 15, 2014. There may be an opportunity to apply next year.
- Much ground work needs to be done to accomplish this project, now might not be the right time to move on this due to short time to accomplish everything.

- Margaret spoke with Trust for Public Land who worked on Barre purchase: Need a lot of information, money ready for appraisal, community benefit piece needs to be big part of grant involved., community interest beyond recreation and timber (water quality)
- Barre recieved $400K from Community Forest Grant- unusual, but were able to show that there were economic benefits from biking trail creation; $300K from VHCB; $200K from Open Space Institute
- Federal appraisal is $4,000-$6,000- can do restricted appraisal for $2,000
- Kate (from TPL) thought it would be too much work to try and purchase parcel with Forest Service Grant due to amount of work it would take
- VHCB- typical limit is $150,000
- TPL would write the grant if it's a million dollar project
- Should HCC recommend that town sell existing Town Forest to create funds to purchase a separate parcel?
- Someone should email Lynda Swannie to give her update of current situation and see what her potential interest is
- Does not make sense, at present, to apply for Forest Service grant and instead pursue other channels of funding if it is decided to move ahead with Mayo Rd. property
- Maybe we could make a short film about the Mayo Rd. property to share with community

Green Mountain Audubon Application for Conservation Funds

- On agenda for next Selectboard meeting (Monday Oct. 21,2013); time is not scheduled yet- Selectboard will be deciding on whether or not to have public meeting for funds expenditure
- Town Forest Ski Trail memo will also be reviewed

Project Updates

ECOS

- Activities log- 9 meetings, average 20 minutes per meeting, average 6 commissioners at meetings= 18 hrs + 2 for planning and phone calls+ 20 hrs spent
- Commission members that spent additional time on ECOS project (outside of HCC meetings) should fill out separate activities log

Host Your Neighbor Event

- Charlotte hosted event in summer of 2013
- Feedback from Keith Thompson is that it would be helpful to have landowners of contiguous property to have control over an area.

Poison Parsnip Removal

- Rebecca is drafting brochure/handout for next year

Special Places Tour

- Attendees: 4 HCC members, 6 adults, 4 kids- good size for group conversation and participation
- Potential to do this more often if commission members want to organize
- At future meeting, come up with list of "special places" for future walks
- Important to send thank you's to land owner hosts to show appreciation

Letters of Support

- One written for Keith Thompson for multi-town invasives mapping project
- One written for Audubon

8:45 JB motions to end meeting, Cindy seconds, all in favor. Motion passes

Next Steps

- JB reach out to Selectboard to discuss possibility of sale of current Town Forest
- Cindy- email Lynda Swannie
- Margaret- research deadlines for VHCB town forest funding
- Cindy- tell Keith Thompson we are not pursuing invasives mapping in town forest

Draft minutes sent to Town Clerk: 10/16/ 2013 Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk: 12/20/13