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*May 13, 2014*

**\*\*Approved\*\* Meeting Minutes  
Huntington Conservation Commission  
April 10, 2014**

Commissioners in attendance: Margaret Fowle, Roman Livak, Rebecca Ryan  
Public in attendance: Vonnie Ogilvie & Sheri Lynn

Margaret calls meeting to order at 7:05

**Review and approve minutes, review mail:**

- Roman motions to approve 3.18.14 minutes, Margaret seconds. All in favor- motion passes.

**Public Questions and Comments:**

- No public questions and/or comments

**ECOS- review of maps & next steps**

- Wildlife Corridor Map-
  - Potentially spend time looking at different corridors and use tracking to verify or check animal presence
  - Would be good to look at criteria used to define these
  - How this could inform salamander signage and road postings?
  - Are there places that need wildlife crossing signs?
- Natural Resource/Wildlife Habitat Components
- Land Cover Classifications
- Upland Natural Communities
  - Which of these communities are considered rare?
- Wetlands Natural Communities
  - Alder swamp along Hinesburg Hollow Rd.
- What to do with these? Who to collaborate with?
- Promote local programs that land owners can use to confirm information
- Should HCC organize event with land owners tracking and documenting in different corridors- this would take significant coordinating effort. How to identify highest priority areas? Potentially where development might threaten corridors? Bobcats, moose, salamanders, snakes all potential species to track.
- Pick "pilot" corridor to do some documenting and inventories and then talk to land owners? Landowners that gave permission for field verification might be good places to start?
- Upland site verification and Main Rd. site verification to raise awareness about wildlife corridors and road crossing.
- Maybe try to set up a session once we have a larger map to see if people are interested in participating.
- There was a good A(20-30 person) turnout at initial map event at library.
- Who could we bring in that could lead the tracking? Wally Jenkins might be willing to lead.
- Potential to do an event with the school in an area with limited traffic- Trapp Rd?

- Next meeting come up with plan for event/outreach

### **Conservation Fund Review Process**

- Review of Romans suggestions and changes
- 4- add “most proposals will require a 90 day lead time”
- Change 7 to “If HCC finds applicant has significant criteria met, HCC will submit to the Selectboard” and remove existing language from 7
- Lessons learned from submissions to Selectboard- is good have applicant present when HCC is presented with recommendation
- Waiting for response from Barbara about getting on Selectboard agenda. Try to get on for May, and send draft process and checklist to SB beforehand. First meeting in May is May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Project Updates**

#### *Wild Parsnip*

- Ideal to have article or flyer in June issue of Times Ink.
- Roadside mowing should occur in June/early July
- Single mowing in July/August will facilitate spread of parsnip
- Rebecca drafted flyer but it hasn't been finalized
- The better job we do of outreach early in the season, the better chance of having parsnip pulled before it goes to seed.
- For next meeting- finalize flyer and come up with outreach plan. Could potentially insert flyer in Times Ink.
- Incentives for people who pull? Ice cream, coupons?

#### *Summer Special Places Tour*

- Ledge tour overlooking village?
- Tied into corridor tracking?
- Discuss more once we determine what will happen with tracking event

#### *Sugarmakers Open House*

- Weather was uncooperative this year, many sugar houses weren't open
- Need to send thank you's for those who participated, and special thanks to Margaret Taft

#### *Gillette Pond*

- No formal update
- FoGP- wondering what role of HCC will be- should HCC have formal role? Hard to commit to this since dam is not in Huntington, doesn't fit scope/criteria of HCC
- The ecological argument is the weakest for keeping the dam- if HCC is thinking about ecological component, then maybe participation with FoGP is not best step.
- Rebecca is willing to attend meetings, but can't commit to every one.
- Is the Recreation Committee a better match of support for FoGP?
- HCC should suggest to Nancy Stoddard that Rec Committee might be worth reaching out to

### *Host Your Neighbor Event*

- Cindy Sprague is able to help with this, but would prefer to host it in the fall and is still waiting to confirm a time with Keith
- Laminated Invasives hand-outs- could we purchase some of these to share at Library?
- April 25<sup>th</sup> “Eat the Invaders” workshop in Starksboro

### **Stormwater Education Grant**

- Huntington Community Garden would be a good group to present workshop to
- Build your own rain barrel workshops
- Storm water presentations- would be beneficial for Road Crew to attend
- Who will be contact person for the town? Rebecca will be primary.

### **HCC Membership**

- Attempts to contact Energy Committee have not been fruitful
- Margaret will keep trying to connect with Energy Committee, and Vonnie O. will discuss with Ross Ogilvie.
- Roman will talk to Dan Stoddard and see if he’s interested
- Andy Carlo is interested but could not attend this meeting

### **Other Business- Town Plan Review**

- Selectboard will have hearing about Town Plan- Roman is hoping people will review and send comments. Important document and should have public input.

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

### **Next Steps**

- Margaret- Talk with Aaron Worthley about how to monitor in different seasons and then also local resources. Also, check with Cindy Sprague to see when maps will be printed.
- Margaret- talk to 4 Winds about potential for school collaboration with mapping
- Rebecca- email Barbara to find date for HCC to get on Selectboard agenda
- Roman- talk to Yogi to make sure Road Crew is on board for timely mowing.
- Margaret- reach out to Heidi to see if she’s working on any poison parsnip articles.
- Rebecca- ask Heidi about insert or parsnip in Times Ink.
- Margaret- send thank you’s to Sugarmakers
- Margaret- respond re: Stormwater grant about Community garden group suggestion and introduce Rebecca as primary contact
- Everyone- review Town Plan and provide input
- Roman- verify when Selectboard Town Plan hearing is
- Margaret- look into laminated invasives flyers