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November 17, 2014

Meeting Minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission
September 4, 2014

Commissioners in attendance: Margaret Fowle, Roman Livak, Rebecca Ryan, Sheri Lynn, John "JB" Bryan, Darlene Palola

Others present: Dean Grover, Mark Sylvester, Linda Swannie, Bonnie Gordon

Margaret Fowle calls meeting to order at 7:05

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- Livak motions to approve minutes as amended, seconded by Fowle, passed unanimously

Project Updates

Land purchase for Town Forest

- Linda Swannie, owner of a 141-acre parcel on Mayo Road says the price to Town for this land is \$195,000., considering its future use as a Town forest. Swannie refers to gravel pit on the land and her wish that this land never be used as a source of gravel. Swannie gives her deadline for the sale as January 1, 2015
- Fowle mentions possible funding sources to be researched, a grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, or purchase through the Vermont Land Trust.
- Livak and Bryan propose considering purchasing the land with Conservation Fund money, which would drain the Fund.
- Livak makes the motion that the Huntington Conservation Commission has the intention of purchasing the 141 acres on Mayo Road with the approval of the Selectboard and a resolution determining funding by January 1, 2015. Bryan seconds the motion, which passes **unanimously**

Public Comment:

- Dean Grover says gravel on this land could be a great resource to the Town and encourages taking advantage of this "exceptional deposit."
- Swannie says land price would be considerably higher if it is used for harvesting gravel.
- Mark Sylvester states that a gravel pit on the property would change the nature of the Town forest in a detrimental way

Next Steps :

- Get County Forester Keith Thompson to describe the property.
- Fowle will follow up with VHCB and VLT, ask Bob Heiser from VLT to come to HCC meeting.
- Lynn and Ryan will work on proposal.

Budget planning for FY 2016

- Fowle distributed present budget and actual expenditures from 2014
- Livak motioned to increase the line for purchasing services to \$1,000.00, and reduce the line for workshops to \$240. Other line items will be level funded. Ryan seconded and **motion passes.**

Huntington Conservation Commission chair and CoChair

- Livak nominates Rebecca Ryan as HCC CoChair and Fowle seconds

Other Business:

- Continue discussion about emerald ash borer at a future meeting.
- Talk with Road Foreman about Highway Department's current procedure for dead tree removal.

9:00, Livak motions to adjourn, Bryan seconds, **all in favor, motion passes**

Draft minutes sent to Town Clerk: 9/06/ 2014

Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk: 11/17/2014