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November 20, 2014

Meeting Minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission
June 19, 2014



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

Margaret calls meeting to order at 7:15

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- Roman motions to approve May minutes; Rebecca seconds, all in favor- **motion passes**

Commission member appointment:

Roman motions we make recommendation to Selectboard to appoint Sheri Lynn as Conservation Commission member; Margaret seconds; all in favor- **motion passes**

Public Questions and Comments:

- No public questions and/or comments

Conservation Fund Review process- review of Selectboard decision

- Selectboard approved use of scoring sheet, and did not have issues with any changes to wording of procedure
- Score sheet is internal document and does not need to be approved by Selectboard if adjustments are made.

ECOS maps

- Cost \$20 each= \$60 total instead of original estimate of \$20. Thought we had ordered 4, but only 3 arrived. Roman motions we have Barbara submit payment to the RPC for \$60 for maps; Margaret seconds; all in favor; **motion passes.**
- Rebecca motions we reimburse Roman for \$61.36 for map mounting materials; Margaret seconds; all in favor- **motion passes**
- Outreach for maps: plan to place laminated maps in Beaudry's for "Mark your animal citing"
- Tracking/monitoring at crossing areas-bring in experts to lead workshops in fall/winter
- Next meeting: decide parameters for what we want people to add to map related types of sitings, seasons, etc.- can then compare what people add with Arrowwood findings.

Town Forest Purchase

- Potential to purchase Swannie property- 144 acres for \$195,000 (estimate figure)
- Could we use conservation fund monies to purchase land, and then sell the current Town Forest to put towards purchase price?
- Have roughly \$176K conservation fund- need to confirm with Dan Stoddard.
- Part of HCC fund criteria is that it leverages additional funds, and so can/should we find additional funding?

- Owning parcel will require maintenance- parking lot, trail maintenance-need plan for how to have long term funding for this.
- Should we pursue funding from VHCB?- Margaret will revisit previous emails with them to explore possibilities.
- Town forest currently valued at \$64,900
- Need to get more information
- Reservation- what would happen to existing Town Forest. It is remote piece of habitat and would be disappointing if it got significantly altered by logging.
- Should/could Keith Thompson come visit to evaluate forest production potential?
- Do we know any lawyers who might be able to do pro bono or reduced rate to support the purchase? VLT and VHCB might have resources available?
- We don't have a large line item for legal fees in the HCC budget.
- Need grant funds for regular maintenance and legal fees of acquisition.
- Barbara Felitee might have ideas from exploring funding for Town Hall

Project Review

Wild Parsnip

- Received feedback that people found it useful.
- Need to post flyer on website before mid-July
- Need to post flyer at library, Beaudry's, and Town Clerk's office
- Send FPF reminder about maintenance and asking town for feedback on how we HCC can be useful in process

Gillett Pond Dam

- In holding pattern- nothing to report

Stormwater Project update

- Rebecca is attending meetings
- They have \$5K for four towns- organization wants to do presentations to town clubs/groups. Huntington doesn't necessarily have appropriate sized group to work with.
- They will publish 10 articles in local papers
- Three site assessments over four communities as part of project: intended for residential, but can be for public and/or private.
- 2 workshops on "build your own rain barrel" one of them will be at VYCC on August 20th.
- <Rebecca has notes to attach from meeting>

HCC budget close out and new clerk position

- Caitlin needs to take leave of note taker position while house building.
- Caitlin will post something to the FPF seeking new note taker and hopefully position will be filled soon.

Next Steps

- Margaret- get 11"x14" ECOS maps printed and laminated

- Margaret- go back and look at previous VHCB emails to get sense of timing or grant opportunities
- Rebecca- contact someone at Mud Pond in Williston to get a sense of annual operating costs for parcel
- Margaret- ask Dan Stoddard for exact balance of Conservation Fund.
- Sheri Lynn- explore what other grant possibilities might exist for funding- Vermont Community Foundation, other foundations?
- Roman- fill out preliminary conservation fund application and share with Lynda Swannie and commission
- Rebecca- send pdf of parsnip flyer to Barbara to have posted on the website, Margaret post reminder on the FPF about parsnip maintenance

8:50 Roman motions to adjourn; Margaret seconds; motion passes

Draft minutes sent to Town Clerk: 6/19/2014

Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk: 11/20/2014