



**Huntington Conservation Commission Minutes
Rescheduled 12.11.14 Meeting to
Saturday, December 20, 2014
9:00 -11:30 a.m. at 620 Salvas Rd**

Commission Members in Attendance: Margaret Fowle, Rebecca Ryan, John JB Bryan, Roman Livak and Sheri Lynn

Public in Attendance: Aaron Worthley and Duncan Keir

RECEIVED

DATE

[Signature]
January 9, 2015

9:00 Review and approve minutes from last meeting, review mail

Sheri motioned to approve minutes as amended. Second by Roman. Motion passes unanimously.

Public Comment: Aaron Worthley and Duncan Keir – Friends of Gillet Pond, Gillett Pond/Conservation Fund discussion

1. There is a purchase and sales agreement with the Girl Scouts with support of the Richmond Land Trust (RLT) and others. RLT will own the pond, pay the taxes and insurance in the short term and potentially the long term.
2. The Friends are raising funds to purchase land. Additional funds may be needed after further study into repair or replacement of the dam. State deemed the dam low risk.
3. Even though the dam is located primarily in Richmond, some marsh/wet lands in Huntington could be affected.
4. They will submit an application to both Richmond and Huntington Conservation Commissions after a plan and steps to preserve the pond are made.
5. The conservation impacts are unclear but there are recreational, historical and scenic values.
6. There was discussion about the application criteria for projects (e.g., "within" Huntington).
7. The Commission agreed to review an application and recommended the application for the Huntington Conservation Commission Funds be less than the application to Richmond Conservation Commission because the a smaller portion of the pond (marshlands) is "within" Huntington.
8. Next steps:
 - a. Sheri will look at Monkton, Hinesburg and Shelburne's, Raven's Ridge, Conservation Fund Application given this is an example Aaron provided where towns collaborated to fund a project.
 - b. Rebecca will ask to be on the January 5, 2015 Select Board Meeting to discuss the "within Huntington" criteria. An Article for Town Meeting on including Gillett Pond for Huntington Conservation Fund application is a potential next step unless the Select Board unless the current process is deemed adequate (e.g., Commission recommends application for funding to the Select Board who in turn holds a public meeting).

Town Report Article

- o Assign topics to HCC members
 1. Margaret volunteered to write the Ecos and Conservation Fund topics including the potential applications for Town Forest projects.
 2. Rebecca will check with Darlene if she would write the Storm Water and Cindy write the amphibian crossings sections
 3. Rebecca will do the invasive (e.g., wild parsnips) section.

- Next steps:

 1. Submit to Rebecca by January 6, 2015)
 2. Deadline Jan 14 so we will look at drafts at the January 8 meeting

Town Forest

- Letter to landowner –If Linda Swannie is around for the holidays then the letter could be hand delivered
- SB letter - Roman said the Select Board had sent Linda the supporting letter about the proposed purchase.
- Current town forest planning- Gaining better access to the current town forest is advantageous for now and in the event, the town gains a new forest and moves to sell the current one. We could invite the land owners along the town forest property line to the February meeting.
- Next steps
 - a. Rebecca will add additional information (e.g., site control agreement, appraisal, funding timeline).
 - b. Roman will bring a list of the landowners to contact regarding the existing town forest.

Budget -

Motion by Rebecca to ask the SB to level fund the Conservation Commission Budget. JB seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next Steps: Margaret will write a letter/e-mail with this request.

Reports and project updates

- Storm water- No report
- ECOS – response to HPC needed- Given the timing we would look at the crossings near our homes and prioritize crossing verification. The Huntington Planning Commission will submit a grant May 16 so what does not make it could be included in the next year.
- Invasives- No report
- Next Steps:

 - Rebecca will send the link of the maps.

Clerk & membership- Margaret had been talking to a person but no commitment was made. Sheri suggested craigslist. Margaret knows an MMU contact and will see if there is a student that would help clerk for the HCC.

11.25 Next Agenda

- Work Plan assignments (add membership recruitment to the work plan)
- Prioritize ECOS
- Review draft town report

11:30 Adjourn

Minutes submitted by Sheri Lynn, January 9, 2015
Approved 1.8.15