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**APPROVED**

## Huntington Conservation Commission Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2015

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Town Office Lower Level

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Margaret Fowle, Rebecca Ryan, John JB Bryan, Darlene Palola and Sheri Lynn

**Commission Members Absent:** Roman Livak

**Public in Attendance:** Aaron Worthley, Jenna Whitson

7:10 Review and approve minutes from last meeting, review mail

Darlene motioned to approve minutes as written. Second by JB. Motion passes unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Aaron Worthley held off on public comment until the Town Mtg article discussion

### Gillett Pond

- Review of discussion with the January 5 Selectboard, and decision to submit an article for Town Mtg allowing the HCC to accept a proposal for Gillett Pond
- Draft article discussion
  - Aaron sent two versions of the draft article that the Friends of Gillett Pond (FOGP) had put together. Commission members discussed the language and voted to submit the first article, which reads:
    - Recognizing the historic, recreational, scenic and natural resource importance to Huntingtonians of Gillett Pond and adjoining wetlands located in the towns of Huntington and Richmond, shall the voters of the Town of Huntington allow Conservation Funds to be used, subject to the guiding criteria and application process with review and approval by the Conservation Commission and the Selectboard, for dam restoration, shoreline protection and other measures deemed relevant for the perpetual protection of Gillett Pond and associated wetlands.

• Sheri motioned to approve the article. Second by JB. Motion passes unanimously.

○ Next steps:

1. Rebecca will submit the article to Barbara for the next Selectboard Meeting

### Town Forest

- Letter to landowner – no response to-date from Lynda Swannie. Discussed how many more times the HCC should reach out, and the group decided that Rebecca would email her one more time, approximately one month from the Dec 23 letter, and let her know that we will no longer pursue the purchase of the land if we didn't hear from her by early February (before our next meeting).
- Current town forest planning- discussed the need to reach out to the landowners who would allow access, as well as the fact that the Camels Hump Skiers Association(CHSA) is pursuing the idea of using the trails year-round. The HCC would like to meet with both groups to discuss.

- Next steps

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  - Rebecca will reach out to the Mayo Rd landowner at the end of January
  - Roman will bring list of current town forest landowners to discuss potentially requesting legal access.
  - The HCC will begin discussions with CHSA about using the trail network for town forest access year-round.

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#### ECOS project

- Brief look at maps showing the potential wildlife crossings. Aaron Worthley filled the HCC in on a project that the town of Warren is conducting to prioritize 10 wildlife crossing areas.
- Brief discussion about need to read VNRC's community guide to better answer the planning commission's request for input.
- Also discussed need to have the planning commission attend a meeting
- Next Steps:

Assigned chapters of the *Community Strategies for Vermont's Forests and Wildlife: A Guide to Local Action* <http://vnrc.org/programs/forests-wildlife/guide/> :

- Chapter 4 - Darlene
- Chapter 5 – Rebecca
- Chapter 6 - Roman
- Chapter 7 - Margaret
- Chapter 8 - Margaret
- Chapter 9 - JB
- Chapter 10 - Sheri

Rebecca will talk to Terry and invite the HPC to the next meeting to discuss expectations/needs

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#### Town Report

- Reviewed current draft and Margaret made recommended changes on the computer.

Next Steps: Margaret will finalize the changes and submit the report to Lucinda Hill before the Jan 14 deadline.

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#### Budget

- Margaret did not submit the request for level funding to the Selectboard, after hearing that all budgets were cut across the board.

#### Workplan

- Discussed need for HCC members to look at the draft workplan and decide which projects/activities to sign up for.

Next Steps: Send any sign-ups to Rebecca by Feb 9, so as to have them before the next mtg on Feb 12.

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#### Clerk & membership

- Margaret posted the clerk position at MMU; no response to-date. She will try CVU as well.

- Jenna Whitson expressed interest in joining the Commission. Brief discussion of process for applying.

- JB motioned to approve Jenna's appointment if she submits a letter of interest. Second by Rebecca. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Next Agenda**

- Work Plan assignments (add membership recruitment to the work plan)
- Discussion with HPC re ECOS
- Decision whether or not to continue to pursue Mayo Rd property for Town Forest
- Discussion of current Town Forest access
- Possible expert from State to discuss the implications of restoring and/or removing Gillett Pond Dam

9:00 **Adjourn**

Draft minutes submitted by Margaret Fowle, January 12, 2015

Approved February 12, 2015