

June 11, 2015
Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC)
Summary of Meeting

Commissions Members Present: Darlene Palola, Roman Livak, Rebecca Ryan and Sheri Lynn

1. 7:06 PM Review and Approve Minutes

Motion to approve made by Roman and seconded by Sheri. The motion passes (4 in favor, 2 members missing).

2. 7:06 PM Town Forest

- Dave Brautigam, Camels Hump Nordic Ski Association CHNSA contacted landowners about access to the town forest.
- Rebecca said and Dave confirmed the landowners' comments on the concept of a non-binding agreement were okay.
- Dean and Lida Douglas who attended this meeting commented that increased traffic even if for as recreational purposes (foot and bike) was a concern. They know people living near the Hinesburg town forest had experience increased activity and eventually moved.
- The road is in rough shape too and current property owners put money into the maintenance each year
- Motor vehicles still use the road in the springtime and impact the road conditions for landowners.
- Roman suggested a definition of right of way and what the town can contribute to maintain access be part of the agreement with landowners. The access for motor vehicles would be for emergencies.
- Darlene wondered how about how we gain landowners getting behind the idea.
- If we cannot gain access for the public to use the land for education and recreation then why own it, Roman asked. We also increase the value of the land to sell later if necessary. Darlene thinks it is still valuable as un-fragmented Forest regardless of the access.
- Sheri thought the annual land use agreements the CHNSA have with owners was a step towards seeing how often town members used the forest and could be engaged in education

and recreational activities. Dave said CHNSA has over 30 landowners with annual land use permit. They can opt out at any given year (not legally binding easement). This could be a model for the town forest

- The town forest access where cars park is near Nils smith or up possible Stage Coach Road
- Dave said there was a CHNSA proposal for trail access to the town forest but it was not part of the Forest Plan. HCC members had hiked in to see where the trail would be and suggested There constraints that would narrow the number of people that could use the trail.

1. **Next step:** Rebecca will send out a doodle poll to Dave, HCC, SB and county forester about walking to the Town Forest for the July HCC meeting and walking the the route again that was proposed by the CHNSA.

3. **Catamount Trail Easement in Town Forest** – Update on Select Board Meeting (SB)

- Rebecca said it went well and Amy did a great job explaining. Sheri added SB comments showed their support for gaining access through special places tour or easements like this.
- The Town’s lawyer will be looking at the agreement.
- We could use the model/template for working with landowners around the Town Forest
- Rebecca had a copy of Northern woodlands which discusses conversation easement - how long is forever.

4. **7:50 PM HCC Work Plan**

- *Parsnips:* Sheri notices some along the main road near Ken Pillsbury and Roman said there was some at the end of Texas Hill near the Hinesburg line, along Taft Road and Gillette Pond.

1. **Next Steps:** Rebecca can put the pullout information on Front Porch Forum. Roman will provide the town with a map of locations to address. The storm recently may impact cutting along these roads.

- *Special Places Tour:* Rebecca reported out that the Cindy Walsh, Joe Parella and Wally Jenkins either were not available or less familiar with the Town Forest to help with a special places tour. We could ask Keith Thompson, County Forester to join us. We decided to publicize that we are walking the Town Forest in July and everyone is welcome to join us for this walk which is the HCC meeting to become familiar with the town forest. We thought September is another month for a special places tour starting at the Bean trial

- **Stormwater** – Darlene reported that the Friends of Winooski, Ann Smith is interested in looking at town garage storm drain issue. This could be free advice the town could use as down the road a storm water management plan may be required of towns.

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- **Next Step:** Darlene will send an e-mail to Barbara Elliot regarding this opportunity.
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5. 8:35 PM Budget

Roman made a motion to have Sheri check with Barbara Elliot about the purchase of a software and microphone not to exceed \$350 to use at meetings which would convert speech to text. Darlene seconded the motion. Discussion: Sheri explained that in her research this may help given there is not clear for the Commission but the technology has limitations. We can revisit it after we test it out over the course of a few months. The motion passes (4 in favor, 2 absent).

- Rebecca had talked to Barbara about having the lawyer bill under this fiscal year.
- Roman said they can get the missing ECOS map done for \$40 dollars

6. 8:45 PM Other Business

- New agenda item – Can we look at finding someone to complete the verification of the ECOS maps? Rebecca will check with Agency of Natural Resources and VT Natural Resources Council
- They are looking for river watchers help with e-coli.

1. Rebecca will check with Aaron Worthsley to see if they need anything.-

- Recruitment of HCC: Before Margret left she was going to take about Jean Lasicero about joining the commission. Paul Goodhouse was another possibility.

1. Next Steps: Rebecca and Roman will follow up on these and other leads (Justin Rich, etc.)

- Rebecca asked about the access to the work plan which was not working for her but was for others. We decided to check to see if it works everyone

Draft: Submitted by Sheri Lynn 6.15.15
MINUTES APPROVED 13 AUGUST 2015
Sent to Town 21 August 2015