

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 P.M.

Present: Mary Ann Hill, Shawn Hanson, Robert Wiener (Zoom), Karen Ayers, Cathy Golas, James Kibler (Zoom)

Absent: Lou Gargiulo, Selectman; Paul Melanson, Nancy Roka, alternate

Staff Present: Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator

#### **Bee Survey:**

- Ms. Hill explained that there was information in the monthly NHACC newsletter about a graduate student looking to do a wild bee survey. She reached out to her, Alaina Bondanza, to invite her to do her work in Hampton Falls. Ms. Bondanza explained there is good peatlands and she is also willing to do a vegetation survey, collect standardized pH readings of any standing water, look at plant communities and their subsequent pollinators and peatland ecosystems to be able to offer a list of bees that occur on their land and flag any interesting bee species and their host plants and with the completion of her research she can offer management plan suggestions.
- She will collect the bees twice throughout the summer.
- There was a question of whether she needed permission from the Board of Selectmen. It was noted that notifying them would be a good idea.
- There was some concern from the Commission that the bees will be dying. It was emphasized that she is only coming twice. The Commission decided they would still like to ask her some questions about the process before she begins.

#### **Raspberry Farm:**

- The Steve Hurd agreement is written as June to August and it should be changed to May through October. The Commission stated they had already established that that would be okay.
- Rockingham County Conservation District submitted their proposal/bid for herbicide spraying on Raspberry Farm. They include a map of where the heavy invasives are. It is not mapped in a way that distinguishes each species but indicates the areas that they would be spraying. They are going to talk to DOT about getting permission to spray along 84 as well. They will be using a low-impact herbicide. Primary targets include Multiflora rose, common buckthorn, Oriental bittersweet, barberries, burning bush, Autumn olive, and any other state listed invasive species. There was some concern that non-invasives will be killed off too. The proposal states that care will be taken to minimize damage to non-target plants. RCCD prefers to complete control once the field has been mowed. This work also includes a National Heritage Board Review as well. They will cut and do a stump treatment for the bigger plants. They will do this in the late summer. The total cost is \$2,840. The Commission discussed whether they had a line item in their budget for this. It was decided they do.

*Mr. Hanson moves to spend \$2850 on spraying herbicides to control the invasives at Raspberry Farm by RCCD, seconded by Ms. Golas. All in favor. Motion Passes.*

- Mr. Schempf's Raspberry Farm Photos are back, they are in new frames and look good.
- Ms. Hill asks about the placement of the plaque for the memorial for Mr. Schempf. The Commission decides they can decide when the plaque comes in.

- Snow plowing parking lot: Both Jude and Jim Z were asked if they are able to plow the lot at Raspberry Farm. They were coordinating to go look at the lot. The Commission decided it's not a priority so if either of them get to the lot a few days after it snows that would be fine.

**Violations:** none

**Conservation Coordinator updates:**

- **Trails:** Ms. O'Brien reviewed the email conversations she had with Peter DeSantis from Comprehensive Trail Services as well as the email communication from Zachary Colatch from New Hampshire Conservation Corps Student Conservation Association. The New Hampshire Conservation Corp group requires housing and accommodations for all of the people working on the project, so Ms. O'Brien decided not to pursue that option. Mr. DeSantis has received the preliminary info form regarding the request for work in the Hampton Falls Town Forest and is planning to take a walk in early spring to assess the work needed and then will meet with the Commission. Ms. O'Brien asked that he let her know before he does his first site walk in case the Commission wanted to join.
- **Conservation properties database:** There are 72 properties now listed in the spreadsheet. It is in the Commission's GoogleDrive. At this point, Ms. O'Brien explained there are no other obviously Town owned/managed parcels so she is going through and finalizing the information about each parcel documented and if any additional land is found in the process, it is added to the spreadsheet. The majority of these parcels do have some documentation recorded at the registry of deeds so Ms. O'Brien is reading through to document any conservation restrictions in the spreadsheet. It was noted that many parcels do not have map/lot numbers because they were recorded before those were assigned. Ms. O'Brien noted one of the only parcels she cannot find a deed for is the Depot Rd Scenic Vista. Ms. Ayers suggested the Railroad VAL sheets.
- **Boiler plate violation letter:** There are several templates available to be used/modified as needed in the Commission's GoogleDrive

**Reports:**

- **Planning Board:** Mr. Hanson is done. There will potentially be two new members. Nothing came before the board. They were potentially going to have an advisory conversation about the Merrill Property. The lots are in a new zoning district with new requirements and someone was interested in potentially subdividing a lot. There was also a question of whether there were wetlands and if they were prime. Nothing has been submitted yet.
- **SHEA:** Nothing new. They had their monthly meeting last week and they are still in the planning stages for four-five outreach events.
- **Depot Rd:** The sub-committee is interested in applying for grants available through NHDES and had asked SHEA to share some information with them regarding those grants and potentially review them. It is unclear what they are looking to do with those grants- potentially addressing some erosion. Also, they had decided how they wanted the parking spaces handled and made their recommendation to Parks and Rec.
- **Mapping Webinar:** Ms. Hill shared what she learned about the Granit and CoastalViewer maps from the webinar she attended recently. She also mentioned the Aquatic Restoration Mapper. They are great resources.
- **Natural Landscaping by Doug Tallamy Webinar:** Ms. Hill shared what she learned from this webinar put on by the Durham Conservation Commission based on the book "Nature's Best Hope". The speaker, who is the author of the book, shared that landscaping for moths and butterflies is very important as they are a very basic part of the food web. He also stated that to raise one nest of chickadees takes 6000 worms. Another major point is to shrink the lawn. Over 40 million acres in

the United States is maintained as lawn. There is an organization called [homegrownnationalpark.org](http://homegrownnationalpark.org) that helps people choose the right types of plants to use in their yards. He also says not to mow around trees because it compacts the soil and prevents moths and other insects from laying their eggs in the soil. He said great things to plant around your trees are foam flower, ginger and mayapple. Ms. Hill stated she was planning to plant ginger and mayapple at Raspberry Farm where the invasives are pulled out.

- **Funding for trails Webinar:** Ms. Hill has a list of information printed out from this webinar. She stated that there was a group in Candia where Lowe's provided 100% of the wood for the project and one of the employees helped them with their project. Ms. O'Brien explained that she had worked with both Lowe's and Home Depot in getting material donations. They typically have to donate a certain amount each month.

#### **Conservation potential:**

- Ms. Golas invited Penny Matel to come to a meeting when she can
- Dilmore's may be interested in putting their land in conservation

#### **Other:**

- **Bill from Boy Scouts:** Ms. Hill shared that she has a bill for \$600 for the 2021 season for greenhead fly traps. There was a question about where the money should come from since the invoice is from 2021 but the money would be coming out of the 2022 budget. It was decided, since they are always behind in sending the invoice, to pay them out of the 2022 budget this year and the 2022 invoice will be paid out of the 2023 budget.

*Mr. Hanson moves to pay the Hampton Falls Boy Scout Troop 377 \$600 for the 2021 season for the greenhead fly traps. Mr. Kibler seconds. All in favor. Motion Passes.*

- **Internships** -Two individuals have asked about internships. Ms. Hill sent them job applications. Taylor Foley will likely be hired somewhere else for a regular full time job, though he did express interest in coming back.
- **Estuary survey:** Ms. Hill asked if anyone had sent in comments for the estuary survey. Several members did.

#### **Financial Reports:**

- The Town switched banks so a few things need to be straightened out. There is an unexplained \$400 spent on dues and subscriptions.
- Fund Balance was \$155,775.06 but it is now around \$160,000. The money was rolled over from last year's budget.

**Review minutes from** February 8, 2022 - Ms. O'Brien will send tonight for review and the Commission will vote next month.

*Mr. Hanson motioned to adjourn seconded by Ms. Golas. All in favor. Motion Passes.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm*

**Respectfully Submitted, Brianna O'Brien**