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| Conservation Commission | October 11, 2022 6:30pm |
| Town of Hampton Falls | Town Hall |

Final Minutes

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER

- a.** Ms. Hill called the meeting to order at 6:37pm

B. ROLL CALL

- a. Present:** Mary Ann Hill, Paul Melanson, Shawn Hanson
- b. Absent:** Robert Wiener, Ann Reis, James Kibler, Cathy Golas, Lou Gargiulo, Selectman's Rep
- c. Staff:** Brianna O'Brien

C. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Marsh Lane:**
 - i.** Wood chips – Todd Davidson is going to provide wood chips
 - ii.** Mr. Hanson was not able to provide a sample to the abutter. The abutter gave a verbal okay because he knows who will be supplying the material.
 - iii.** Ms. Hill spoke with Russ to relocate the sign. Need posts or bollard at the back gap where the RV driver is using to access the property.
- b. Raspberry Farm:**
 - i.** The gravel for driveway to parking area will be \$850.
 - ii.** Ms. Hill asks if a vote is needed to expend money from the parking lot maintenance line item. Mr. Hanson agrees that this price is reasonable for the work and the Commission can vote next month.
- c. Citizens Guide:**
 - i.** Ms. O'Brien reviewed the updated version of the document
 - ii.** The consensus is that it is good and ready to go with a few minor changes.
 - iii.** The commission members discussed which map layers will be needed for town wide map page and talked about reaching out to RPC for help
 - iv.** Mr. Hanson expressed concerns about QR code feasibility. Ms. O'Brien explained that the websites that are linked can be clicked on in the digital version and they are also written in a way that if someone could not get the QR code to work, they could easily google the name of the webpage and it would come up without having to type out the full URL.
 - v.** Mr. Hanson also talked about how difficult it might be for residents to find and understand the prime wetland layer. He suggested using a link to the existing prime wetland map that is on the town website.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Violation: 42 and 46 Drinkwater Rd.**
 - i.** The pond in between the two properties was dredged.
 - ii.** One owner dredged a portion of the pond and created a road way through the pond to bring the dredged material to his property

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- iii. This pond is not prime but it has a small stream that connects to Grape Vine Run headwaters which is prime. The pond has aquatic life-, lily pads and freshwater snails
- iv. Mr. Sikorski, Building Inspector, has sent a letter to the property owner where the pond was dredged but that was not the person who did the dredging. Another letter was sent to the individual who did the work to issue a cease and desist.
- v. This discussion brought up the topic of vernal pools. Ms. Hill found a resource on the Fish and Game website- a free pdf publication titled: Manual for Vernal Pools in NH. There is a vernal pool documental form on page 62 of the book. Mr. Melanson has a vernal pool on his property. Avesta has three beautiful vernal pools on their property; they would likely allow the Commission to go and sample or document their pools. Mr. Melanson has seen mosquito control people spraying the pool on his property.
- b. Wetlands Permits: The Commission would like to pursue implementation of a Wetland Permit Application (based on Hamptons) to keep track and document development.
- c. Ms. Hill did a walk of the Bate's property with SELT (Southeast Land Trust). She stated you have to hike in about half a mile to access the property- there is no direct access. It is in between Drinkwater and Rt 88. It is 45 acres. There were many mushrooms. Mr. Melanson said there is an app that helps identify mushrooms. Ms. Hill identified Yellow parasol, Coral fungus, Russula emitica, and Hemlock varnish mushroom. Ms. Hill and SELT got permission to access the property by crossing private property, but because the property is right along the powerlines, she believes it could be accessed by the utility easement.

E. COMMUNICATION TO BOARD MEMBERS

- a. Planning Board:
 - i. 12 Lafayette- went to the Planning Board on September 27, 2022. It appears that their plans keep changing. Mr. Hanson stated that they are proposing a swimming pool and clubhouse. This is a huge project that requires 5 variances to move forward. This was a Design Review. The proposed 5 stories is 25 ft higher than the ordinance allows. The Fire Department does not have a truck to reach that high. Mr. Hanson believes this is really far away.
- b. Depot Landing living shoreline- Mr. Melanson is at a standstill, waiting to hear from a number of people to be able to move forward. Ms. O'Brien shared that she would be happy to help. She met with DES and obtained a site suitability assessment for a living shoreline at Depot Landing several months ago. Mr. Melanson would like input from other people as to what the Town would like to see in this area. The Commissioners agreed this project is in a difficult place because of several conflicting opinions.
- c. Ms. Hill went to the Depot to check on the areas that were cleared over the summer and found a lot of trash there as well. She believes this area needs updated signage. She also saw boats driving very fast and suggested a no wake zone. Mr. Hanson pointed out that

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enforcement is an issue. Hampton Harbor Master may send someone out there but it is a different town so it is not likely.

- d.** The NHACC annual meeting is November 5th in Pembroke, there is a reduced cost for Hampton Falls Commissioners because they pay NHACC dues.
- e.** Ms. Hill reported on two webinars she had recently attended: Connect to Protect which reviewed the 2021 NH Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan and online mapping tools and the Conservation Commission round table meeting with the focus on groundwater rise along the coast.
- f.** November Financial Reports:
 - 1. CC Fund Bal: \$160,912.32
 - 2. Budget Balance \$7,211.00
 - 3. Conservation Land Capital Reserve Fund beg. Bal. \$45,148.67 Current Balance ~ \$92,000.
- g.** Taylor River Farms LLC is proposing to build a primary structure with a split pervious driveway. They applied for a NHDES Shoreland Permit and have been given approval with conditions. Ms. Hill would like to be able to review Shoreland Permits before they get approval. NHDES Shoreland Permits do not require local review.

Ms. Hill stated that they will need to have a quorum next month in order to vote on minutes and NHACC dues.

F. ADJOURNMENT

- a.** Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

NEXT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED November 8, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

These minutes prepared by Brianna O'Brien