

Conservation Commission Final Minutes	November 14, 2023 6:30pm
Town of Hampton Falls	Town Hall

A. CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

B. CALL TO ORDER

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

C. ROLL CALL

- a. **Present:** Mary Ann Hill, Shawn Hanson, Cathy Golas, Robert Wiener, Ann Reis, Lou Gargiulo, Selectman's Rep, Karen Ayers, Alternate
- b. **Absent:** Paul Melanson

D. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Seedling order** from State Forestry Nursery: Ordering opens in December, and stock goes fast, so we need to decide what we want to order and how much to spend. It was agreed that M. Hill order trees and/or shrubs that seemed appropriate for the Raspberry Farm considering order quantity requirements.
 - i. **MOTION:** S. Hanson made a motion to spend up to \$300 for seedlings from the NH State Forest Nursery, A. Reis seconded. Motion passed.
- b. **Citizens Guide:** A. Reis has address labels and a brief note to send with the Homeowner Guides to new residents in Town.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Greenhead traps:** The question of how to handle the greenhead traps going forward was broken down into three parts: who would deploy, retrieve, and repair the traps, Dragon Mosquito Control or the Stratham Girl Scouts? How would we store them? How should we pay for the service/storage. Discussion included the fact that we no longer have a scout troop in town to handle the traps; if we provide covered storage we shouldn't have to replace as many each year which would offset the higher price from Dragon; for best long-term storage choices were a type of tent or a shipping container. **MOTION:** S. Hanson made a motion that we hire Dragon Mosquito Control to service the traps, C. Golas seconded. Motion Passed. The shipping container appears to be the best storage option. M. Hill will get cost, ask about the Frying Pan Lane fund, and check with Russ Hilliard about placement at the Town Dump.
- b. **RCCD donation of marsh parcels:** M. Hill contacted T. Degnan at RCCD and they would like us to handle the paperwork. S. Hanson will email Mary Ganz to see if she will do that for us.
- c. **Plaque for Glenn Schrempf:** C. Golas has the design and names of companies who make plaques. Some discussion on style.
- d. **Trails:** M. Hill talked to Peter DeSantis at the NHACC meeting and he is willing to take up the project of extending the trails in the Town Forest. M. Hill will send him the maps.
- e. **Conservation Commission logo sign:** C. Golas made a motion to approve the design with the three trees for our logo, S. Hanson seconded. Motion passed. M. Hill will talk to Brianna about getting it printed.

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F. COMMUNICATION TO BOARD MEMBERS

- a.** Planning Board: The planning board reviewed an application by Motor Sports to install outside shelving. Questions from the CC involved proximity to the wetland setbacks and type of product to be stored on the shelves, the concern being possible leakage of motor oils into the wetland. A second issue concerns the property at 41 Lafayette Rd. The Owner is not complying with the terms of his site approval. The question arose of how to put more teeth in enforcing ordinances and building codes.
- b.** ZBA: The owner of 12 Lafayette Rd. presented a revised variance request. The CC was not given copies of the new request which included filling in 1 acre of wetland for the project. This case has been continued to December 14. A second case involved 4 variances to the prime wetland buffer ordinances in order to build a home on Drinkwater Rd.
- c.** M. Hill reported on three topics from the NHACC annual meeting on November 5. There was an excellent talk on beavers and ways to construct barriers so that beavers could build their dams without creating problems with culverts. The benefits of beaver activities were highlighted, one being the benefit to turtles and other amphibians. M. Hill asked the turtle rep from the Forest Service to come to our Town Forest and tell us where we would be likely to see turtles and how to help them thrive. Mark West gave a comparative review of local wetland ordinances. We can use his critique together with Brianna's audit of our wetland ordinances to make recommendations to the planning board ordinance review committee. There was also a talk on Community solar, how much power could be produced for a neighborhood on how much acreage of open space.
- d.** Ms. Hill reported on a webinar she had recently attended on issuing bonds for Conservation Easements or acquisitions, should the need arise in the future.
- e.** The Commission voted on two expenses: S. Hanson moved that we pay NHACC \$250 for our annual dues, R. Wiener seconded. Motion Passed. S. Hanson moved to reimburse M. Hill \$60.00 for attending the NHACC conference, A. Reis seconded. Motion Passed.
- f.** November Financial Reports:
 - 1. CC Fund Bal: \$161,978.03
 - 2. Budget Balance \$_____
 - 3. Conservation Land Capital Reserve Fund beg. Bal. \$45,148.67 Current Balance ~ \$92,000.

G. Minutes from October 12: S. Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, R. Wiener seconded. Motion Passed.

A. ADJOURNMENT

- a.** Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

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NEXT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED December 12 at 6:30 PM.

These minutes prepared by M. Hill