HOOKSETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Monday, March 9, 2020  
Hooksett Municipal Building  
Town Council Chambers  

Cindy Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Present: Cindy Robertson-Chair, David Ross-Vice Chair (arrived at 5:18pm), JoCarol Woodburn-Member, Phil Fitanides-Member, Deborah Miville-Member, Robert Better-Alternate,

Not Present: William Herlicka- Alternate, David Hess-Alternate, John Pieroni-Alternate

Staff: Leann Fuller, Administrative Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

I. Public Input

Mike Horne, Co-Chair of Hooksett Kiwanis Trail Committee spoke about the Heads Pond trail. The Kiwanis is looking at maintenance items for the Heads Pond trail. One item includes removing the leaves off the trail to try and keep the organics off the stone dust to keep the grass from coming up through. They plan to clean out the drainage on the side of the trail between Pleasant Street and Route 3 as it is a mosquito pit. The Kiwanis does have some funds in their budget this year and Mike would like to try and make the trail more handicap accessible. Mike is working with Earl, Public Work Director and Phil, Parks and Recreation to look at the back side of the berm and come in with a 5-7% grade to make it easier for wheelchairs. Mike and Al Stein have reached out to the Carriage Hill Homeowners Association as well. The Kiwanis are excited to see the Stewardship Plan next month to see if the Kiwanis and the Conservation Commission can work together more closely. Another item they hope to do is to spruce up the kiosk and benches. The Scouts have signs back in place, but they do look very repaired. The new and old do not blend in well.

Cindy Robertson thanked Mike and the Kiwanis’ help in maintaining the Heads Pond Trail.

JoCarol Woodburn mentioned that the Conservation Commission may be able to come up with something like what was put at the kiosk at the Hooksett Riverwalk Trail.

Mike Horne also mentioned that Kiwanis is discussing possible ways to make it very clear the trail is “Carry In, Carry Out”.

II. Consent Agenda

i. Transfer from the People’s Conservation Account to Town’s General Account

JoCarol Woodburn motioned to approve the Consent agenda, seconded by Deborah Miville. Motion passed.

III. Meeting Minutes Approvals

- February 10, 2020

Conservation Commission March 9, 2020
Deborah Miville motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2020, seconded by Phil Fitanides.

Line 179- spelling error: lop should say loop.

Motion passed.

-JoCarol Woodburn motioned to approve the non-public meeting minutes from February 10, 2020, seconded by Phil Fitanides.

Spelling error: Matter should say Matt.

Motion passed.

IV. Appointments

1. Amend the License with Mr. Pritchard. This amendment could include a fee for the use of the corn field and that fee could be used to have the additional fields maintained (mowed). And/or have another conversation with Mr. Pritchard and clarify what the Town is looking for in return for the use of the field.

2. Negotiate a Right of Way agreement through the Mason Property. Dave Hess is adamantly opposed to that approach.

3. Redesign the current bridge crossing installed near the Therrien right of way to make it wider. That would involve an expense and amendment to the wetlands permit. This is not an ideal alternative.

4. Another access point is with the Brown property. There is an actual Right of Way through that property. It is an existing gravel road, but it is steep and eroded.

Cindy Robertson stated that based on the options, she believes it is worth going back and having a conversation with Mr. Pritchard. Phil Fitanides recommended getting the schools involved as an additional option to allow classes to be taught in the fields. Steve Couture mentioned that without its own access point, there is not a lot of options aside from going back to the current user. Also, the issue with imposing a revocation clause would the enforcement. A fee would allow use of the field and maintenance of the other fields. Steve Couture is willing to have the conversation with Mr. Pritchard. Steve also mentioned including some type of language that could rescind access to the property if the other fields are not mowed by a specific date.

Cindy informed the Conservation Commission that Bear-Paw is having a beer tasting event by Northwoods Brewing Company on Saturday, March 14 at 2pm-4pm.

V. Other business: Projects, Invoices, Etc.

1. CIP Request (Due April 2nd)
The Conservation Commission would like to continue with the current plan with changes to the description of the Merrimack Riverwalk Trail project to include that Phase III is anticipated to begin in 2021 with an estimated cost of $320,949.51.

ii. University Heights/Town Pond/School District/Carriage Manor Stewardship Plan
Jeff Littleton will be attending the April meeting to review the Stewardship Plan with the Conservation Commission. Steve and Cindy will then present the plan to the School Board at their May 5th meeting. A public hearing will follow the May 11th Conservation Commission meeting at the Hooksett Library.

iii. Stantec Invoice $294.00
Deborah Miville made a motion to approve payment of the Stantec Invoice in the amount of $294.00, seconded by Phil Fitanides. Motion passed.

Cindy Robertson was at the Riverwalk and noted that they have done the seeding over the loam off Merrimack Street. Stantec held back money and will make sure it takes.

iv. Hooksett Heritage Month (May)
The Conservation Commission previously discussed having a grand opening of Phase II and because of the historic nature of Phase II, it would be beneficial to incorporate into the Hooksett Heritage Month of May. This will be on the April agenda to decide on a date and what should be done. All the funders should be invited. There will be a press release, invitation and social media notification.

Deborah Miville motioned to participate in Hooksett Heritage Month of May by having a formal grand opening of Phase II of the Hooksett Riverwalk Project, seconded by Cindy Robertson. Motion passed.

David Ross arrived at 5:18pm.

v. Conservation Easement boundary signs update
Leann updated the Conservation Commission regarding the boundary markers order. The Sign Gallery, Inc has not been responsive regarding the order. The last communication as December 30, 2019. Leann will continue to try for the next week. From there, it may be back to square one with new quotes from other companies.

vi. Boy Scouts Adopt-a-Trail
Discussed earlier while Steve Couture was present.

vii. Bear-Paw Invoice $1,037.50
David Ross made a motion to approve the February Bear-Paw invoice in the amount of $1,037.50, seconded by JoCarol Woodburn. Motion passed.

David Ross stated that Bennett Nelson was supposed to come back in and go over the details of the bridge project. Cindy Robertson concurred. Leann will review the video.

JoCarol Woodburn asked Cindy if she heard anything back from Dan Tatem regarding getting the Merrimack Riverwalk map updated as it has incorrect property lines. JoCarol asked if the Riverwalk signs were ordered and they were.
Cindy Robertson motioned to adjourn, seconded by David Ross. Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm

Minutes respectively submitted by

Leann Fuller
Administrative Assistant

Please see subsequent meeting minutes for any amendments to these minutes.