

**Hooksett Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2012**

Call Meeting to Order: 6:00pm

Attendance: Steve Couture-vice chair , Jim Walter-member, Cindy Robertson-member excused, Phil Fitanides-Alt-member, John Turbyne-Alt-member, David Hess-member, Todd Lizotte Town Council Rep, Frank Kotowski, Planning Board Rep,

Public Input: none

Meeting Minutes: Jim Walter motioned to accept the meeting minutes from August 8, 2012 seconded John Turbyne voted unanimously

Appointments:

Pinnacle Rules and Regulations:

Todd Lizotte – I had a meeting with the Ehlers’, Dr. Shankle, and Councilor Boswak. During this meeting we came to the conclusion that there are other areas to put a trail where you can climb upwards a little ways that will bring you to some deer trails. Also there was a conversation of re-directing the trail with logs that have already been laid down in this area. This would direct people away from the area that abuts the Ehler’s property. By doing this I believe we are reaching one of goals of the Master Plan. These also are not new ideas regarding relocating the trail. I believe these possible actions have been talked about by many people. The map that I am showing you is from the Master Plan.

John Turbyne – My concern about this is that it may not be friendly for those using strollers or small children walking or people with mobility issues. That was my concern I just was not comfortable with limiting those that will be able to use the trails.

Todd Lizotte – I did talk to John Danforth who works with the Boy Scouts about a possible Eagle Scout Project. The impact fees for this project have been set aside and may also be able to be used towards re-directing these trails as well.

John Turbyne – I would like to find out if DPW would be able to build up the backside of the trails. I think that would be a place to start.

Steve Couture – I agree with Todd that we have to identify what exactly we want to achieve from this project, design, time table, materials, accessibility for users of the trail, etc.

Bob Ehler – Thank you for adjusting your schedule so that we can speak and also I would like to thank Dr. Shankle, Todd, and Leslie for meeting us last Wednesday. During this meeting another plan was proposed about possibly of moving the trail so that the one behind our house would not be

utilized. If the trail is closed behind our property this would make for a more adventurous and natural trail for those who will utilize it.

Todd Lizotte – I just want to make sure that the idea is to block your property naturally and then install a gate on the opposite side by the water company so that the fire department can get up there if they need to. We cannot guarantee that no one will use that trail again and I just want to make sure everyone is aware of this. I would like for a plan be presented to the town council so that everyone involved knows what is happening and that it can be discussed and agreed upon.

John Turbyne – Does anyone know the name of the man who has been laying down the logs to help define the trails?

Phil Fitanides – I would like to see the listing of rules on the Pinnacle. I have been speaking to people at the state parks and they are beginning to realize that less is more when it comes to signage and I am wondering if that is something that we should do as well.

John Turbyne motioned to recommend that Todd Lizotte continue the discussion that was outlined this evening with the Town Council Phil Fitanides seconded voted unanimously

Steve Couture - I think that working with Dr. Shankle on this would be the best thing. That way we can do the planning together and everyone is aware of what is going on.

Webster Woods Restoration Plan – Gove Environmental

Steve Couture - No action required it is being handled at the local and state level. They know that they have to handle the restoration.

Commission Reports:

1. Merrimack Riverfront Project –

Dave Hess- Things have been happening we have submitted grants in the amount of \$250,000. First was to NHCF in the amount of \$150,000 and then we submitted to the Cogswell Benevolent Trust in the amount of \$100,000.

I have also walked the property with PSNH and there environmental consultants. In order to have the dams relicensed they must make contributions to Aquatic Projects and we may be a front runner for that. Also for the ARM Grant they requested about \$1 million and if we are approved \$100,000 would go to the purchase and \$900,000 would go the restoration of the project. This is in progress. We did miss the Citizens deadline. There are four others grant applications that are due before the next meeting.

We have the fund raising event that we would like have at the end of October Mike Speltz of the Forest Society said he would assist us as well This date will be October 23 at 7pm and invite Kiwanis, Lions Club, School and Town officials, Chamber of Commerce, Forest Society, Audobon Society, SNHPC, Bear Paw, Amoskeg Rowing Club, etc.

Punch List LCHIP– We will need to get updated appraisals for the properties.

Other:

1 Invoices – None

- 2 **Elections** – Dave Hess nominated Steve Couture as Chair seconded by Todd Lizotte voted unanimously. Dave Hess nominated Cindy Robertson as vice chair seconded by John Turbyne voted unanimously
- 3 **Old Home Day** – Jim Walter cannot do it this year and maybe we should put it off this year and then possible continue next year. Phil Fitandis said that he may be able to man the table as long as he gets all of the supplies that are needed.
Steve Couture motioned to authorize the expenditure of \$125 to purchase a canopy and a table for the use at Old Home Day Jim Walter seconded voted unanimously
- 4 **CIP** – Steve Couture motioned to request \$10,000 from the CIP John Turbyne seconded voted unanimously. Commission members will think about CIP membership and let Jodi know so that she can inform the Planning Department.
- 5 **Public Access for Trails** – Should we have a joint meeting with all of the different organizations involved? We could use the Pinnacle as a test pilot run. This way we could begin the prioritization and begin to associate costs with each parcel of land. Pinnacle 2012-2013; Merrimack Riverfront 2013-2015; Quimby Mountain; Clay Pond

Correspondence:

All correspondence was reviewed by the commission

Non-public under RSA 91-A: 3, II d

Todd Lizotte motioned to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A: 3, II d seconded by John Turbyne voted unanimously

David Hess motioned to exit non-public session John Turbyne seconded voted unanimously.

Adjournment – John Turbyne motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:13pm seconded by Todd Lizotte.