

HILLSBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 9, 2013

Approved Minutes

Present:

Commissioners: Brett Cherrington, Chair; Terry Yeaton; Linda White, Tom Fournier, Ann Ford (Alternate)

John P. Segedy, Recording Secretary
Dave Fullerton, Selectman

Jeffrey Littleton, Moosewood LLC

Chair Cherrington called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Ann Ford was appointed to vote in place of a vacancy.

Visitor Business

1. Jeffrey Littleton – Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)

Jeffrey Littleton addressed the Commission to update them on the progress being made on the NRI. He explained (and showed) to the Commission three data layer maps that he said he had reworked:

- a) Surface Waters – ponds, etc.. Jeffrey Littleton pointed out that there were a number of small ponds that hadn't been on the map. He also noted he had removed the surface water designation of the area near East Washington Road and Coolidge Road that the Commission had previously discussed and is better designated as wetlands.
- b) Wetlands
- c) Agricultural Lands – Jeffrey Littleton said that this map had also been updated based upon their field work as uses have changed. He said that this includes hayfields, row crop fields and orchards.

Brett Cherrington asked what defined surface waters as opposed to wetlands.

Jeffrey Littleton said that the surface waters are human created. He said the natural occurring waters change year to year, mostly due to beaver activity.

Tom Fournier asked if there were any natural water bodies in town, by that definition.

Jeffrey Littleton said all of the ponds and lakes are dam controlled.

Ann Ford asked about Carter Pond.

After finding it on the map, the Commission discussed Carter Pond and its classification.

Jeffrey Littleton said that they didn't have to use the title 'Surface Water Bodies' and could just use something like 'Ponds and Lakes'.

Brett Cherrington said he would rather keep to the conventional terminology, but maybe have a glossary.

Jeffrey Littleton said he could do a glossary.

There was discussion of the difficulty finding Carter Pond on the map.

Jeffrey Littleton said that the final layers/maps will all have base information such as roads on them, which will make them easier to use than the draft ones.

There was further discussion of Carter Pond and whether to designate it as wetlands or a surface water body.

Jeffrey Littleton said that is a decision that the Commission gets to make. He said in the meantime he would check how it is designated on other state maps.

Brett Cherrington asked – Because any NRI is limited and its data incomplete they don't know everything and since things change is it easy to update the report as more information comes in? Jeffry Littleton said yes he could do that. He suggested that NRI reports are usually good for 5-10 years.

John Segedy noted that as this one is being done slightly before the Master Plan Update being worked on this year, that in 10 years an update to the NRI will be timely for use in the next Master Plan update.

Jeffry Littleton next showed the Commission the wildlife action plan map. He said it still needed the grassland layer added to it. He said it has had some changes generated from the site visits he has done. Brett Cherrington asked if forestry being done in the last few years would have affected this map. Jeffry Littleton answered yes.

Jeffry Littleton said he had added vernal pools that he had confirmed. He said that he also has a list of potential vernal pools that haven't been confirmed. He said he could perhaps note them on a small map within the text of the report.

Linda White said she knows of other vernal pools.

Brett Cherrington said he also knows of some (vernal pools). He asked if Jeffery wanted those also.

Jeffry Littleton said that in order to include them he would need documentation. He said that there was nothing to say that they couldn't keep that information on their own.

Brett Cherrington said that Jeffry should leave the data as he has it, but that the Commission should add to its goals creating a vernal Pool database.

Jeffry Littleton said they still needed to talk about the conservation lands and displayed the Conservation Land map. He asked about the “Widow Murdough Wood Lot” and the Hildreth Mill Lots near Farrar Marsh.

Brett Cherrington answered that they were owned by the Town.

Dave Fullerton asked who owned the land behind Shaw's.

Brett Cherrington said that unfortunately the Town does.

Dave Fullerton asked why is it unfortunately.

Brett Cherrington explained that they can't have an easement on a property that you own. He said that none of the trusts are interested in it because of a toxic groundwater plume on it, as well as its power line right of way.

Dave Fullerton said that he had heard that at one time some trees had been bought for downtown and had been temporarily planted there.

Jeffry Littleton asked about the 'Blackberry' Lot (M8, L 106-25 & M 11E, L 9).

Brett Cherrington said that it was owned by the town.

Jeffry Littleton asked why mark them (the Town owned properties) as Conservation Land.

Brett Cherrington answered that it differs for each one, but that they effectively were. (For example some may have deed restrictions, or be owned by “The Conservation Commission”). He noted the Knaption lot as an example that has a restriction in the deed and the property on Jefferson Drive owned by the Town 'under the auspices of the Conservation Commission'.

Jeffry Littleton said he expected that he would have the Draft of the Introduction and Main Body completed in a couple of weeks and will check with the mapper once he incorporates points discussed. He said he could send them for review separately or all together is his preference. Jeffry Littleton said he expected a couple of weeks after that he would have the Conservation priorities section completed for the Commission to review and make suggestions on. He said then the final report would be prepared as well as the condensed report for the Master Plan Update.

Jeffrey Littleton said he expected to be back in about a month. He left the meeting at 8:50 pm.

2, Dave Fullerton – Beard Brook Beach Testing

Dave Fullerton said he had discussed with Kelly Dearborn-Luce (Former Code Enforcement Officer) the testing that has caused the beach closing last year and previously. He said he would like to find the source of the problem and would like to get some students to help with the testing. He said he had sent a letter to the Superintendent yesterday to see if there were students interested in helping.

Ann Ford said she had talked to Marian Baker who has worked with students on testing the Contoocook River in the past. She said she would put Dave Fullerton in contact with Marian Baker.

Minutes

1. April 25, 2013

A couple of changes were suggested by Linda White.

Ann Ford moved: *To approve the minutes of April 25, 2013 as amended.*

Linda White seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Brett Cherrington abstained).

Correspondence

1. **NH Lakes Association** – Dues reminder & Monthly Publication.
2. **NH Division of Forests and Land** – Notice of planning Timber Harvest – Fox Forest
3. **Intent to Cut** – Bickford Road (M 7, L 136)

Old Business

1. **Goals** – Tabled
2. **Master Plan Update Committee**

Discussion of Conservation Commission representation.

Linda White suggested reading the old Master Plan so the Commission can discuss recommendations.

3. **Fieldwork – River-Walk**

Brief discussion.

Terry Yeaton noted that the Barrett and Gould building is for sale.

4. **Contoocook Local River Advisory Committee** - Representative – Tabled.

Adjournment

Tom Fournier moved: *To adjourn.*

Ann Ford seconded. Motion passed 5-0 at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

John P. Segedy
Recording Secretary
Approved May 23, 2013