

# HILLSBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 5, 2015

Hillsborough Town Office

Approved Minutes

Present: Commissioners: Brett Cherrington, Chair; Terry Yeaton, Vice Chair; Linda White; Richard Head; Jim Young.

John P. Segedy, Recording Secretary & Alternate.

Chair Cherrington called the Hillsborough Conservation Commission (HCC) meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

## MINUTES

### 1. January 22, 2015

Brett Cherrington offered a wording change.

**Richard Head moved: *To approve the minutes of January 22, 2015 as amended.***

**Terry Yeaton seconded. Motion passed 3-0-2 (Jim Young and Richard Head abstained).**

## CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Intent to Cut** – East Washington Road, (M 5, L 78)
2. **NH Department of Environmental Services (DES)** – Acceptance of Permit Application – 59 Marina Road (M 19, L 23).
3. **Town of Hillsborough** – Monthly Account Statements. Richard Head noted that the Conservation Fund earned 93 cents in interest last month and that the Commission's budget for 2014 was under spent by \$897.31 which should be transferred to the Conservation Fund.

## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Sur Realty

**Richard Head moved: *To enter Non-Public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(d).***

**Brett Cherrington seconded. Richard Head -yes, Terry Yeaton -yes, Jim Young – yes, Linda White – yes, Brett Cherrington - yes.**

**The Commission entered Non-Public session at 7:15 pm.**

**The Commission exited Non-Public session at 7:30 pm.**

**Richard Head moved: *To seal the minutes of the Non-Public session.***

**Linda White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.**

### 2. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

Richard Head provided a handout he had prepared (Attached Appendix). He explained that Section I was the list of priorities ordered as previously discussed. He also said that section II was a list of possible actions as starting points for discussion.

The Commission reviewed Section II and briefly discussed it.

Brett Cherrington noted he had previously thought of conducting an audit of existing regulations noting as an example site plan regulations that contain an invasive plant as

a suggested planting (Norway Maple).

John Segedy suggested that the Conservation Commission participate the next time the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment do their statutorily required biennial review of the town's Zoning Laws.

John Segedy also suggested that the outreach/educational section include some outreach with the schools.

Richard Head noted that the web site still has the draft version of the NRI posted.

Brett Cherrington said he would follow up with getting the final version posted.

It was agreed that the Commissioners review section II in conjunction with the NRI maps and continue discussion at the next meeting.

### **3. Loon Award**

Discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Easement Monitoring**

Brett Cherrington noted that it was the time of year that the Commission usually checks on the Philbrick Easement. He suggested that any member who had time and wanted to snow shoe it could do so.

Brett Cherrington brought up that the Widow Murdough lot has deeded winter access and since that was the marking/surveying project they had discussed doing this year, they may want to get it started. It was agreed that Brett Cherrington should contact Peter Mellen to get an updated estimate and see if he needed to do any of the work while it was winter.

John Segedy noted that although access was only deeded in the winter he believed that NH law allows for reasonable access to a land locked parcel.

The Commission's Easement Monitoring log was discussed. Consensus was to continue discussion at the next meeting.

### **2. Involvement in Development Planning**

Brett Cherrington noted the "Tractor Supply" proposal for West Main Street scheduled for a Public Hearing on February 18<sup>th</sup>. He said that as he was an abutter he discussed recusing himself from speaking as representative of the Commission about it and would like other HCC members to handle any involvement in the process.

Linda White and Richard Head each said they would attempt to attend.

Brett Cherrington did provide a brief history of previous development proposals on the property.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Wildlife Discussion**

There was a brief discussion of winter wildlife.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Richard Head moved: *To adjourn.***

**Linda White seconded. Motion passed 5-0 at 8:45 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted:

John P. Segedy

Recording Secretary

Approved February 19, 2015

**APPENDIX****I. PRIORITIES**

1. Protect large unfragmented blocks, especially those with high quality habitats located within close proximity of one another and with limited barriers for wildlife movement.
2. Better understand wildlife movement patterns to identify and design the most effective conservation corridors.
3. Connect protected lands and other critical habitats with upland, aquatic and/or riparian corridors.
4. Protect intact wetland and stream riparian buffers and promote the restoration of degraded areas.
5. Build upon existing contiguous protected lands.
6. Promote community education and outreach regarding Hillsborough's biodiversity and the importance of long-term protection strategies.
- 7a. Support voluntary approaches to natural resource protection.
- 7b. Support regulatory approaches to natural resource protection.
8. Protect rare species, critical habitats/natural communities.

**II. ACTIONS**

- a. Outreach/Education
  - identify landowners within priority areas.
  - create pamphlets/educational material –
    - best practices based on benefit (unfragmented land; wildlife corridor; aquatic/riparian corridor; wetland protection; etc.).
    - homeowner resources.
    - benefits of easements.
  - outreach/education effort for targeted landowners.
    - Mailings
    - Posters
  - Weekly environmental segment in Villager.
  - Coordinate with schools.
- b. Targeted Identification of Landowners Who Fall Within Sensitive Areas
  - Direct outreach to landowners.
  - Seminars with experts (i.e. tax/legal experts about advantages of conservation easements).
- c. Draft proposed regulations
  - Audit current zoning regulations to better understand if and how they protect critical natural resources.
  - Land use regulations regarding
    - storm water management,
    - erosion,
    - sediment control,
    - septic setbacks,
    - agricultural activities,
    - forestry, recreation,
    - Wetlands....
  - *Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development* ([http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/documents/ilupt\\_complete\\_handbook.pdf](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/repp/documents/ilupt_complete_handbook.pdf)).
  - Prime wetlands study.
- d. Presentation to Planning Board/Robyn Payson