

# HILLSBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 3, 2016

Hillsborough Town Office

Unapproved Minutes

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

John P. Segedy, Recording Secretary & Alternate.

Public: Ann Poole, Bonnie Kurylo, Marian Baker, Alan Roe, Nick Golon. Gary Sparks.

Chair Cherrington called the Hillsborough Conservation Commission (HCC) meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

## VISITOR BUSINESS

Bonnie Kurylo, Alan Roe and Nick Golon appeared to present and explain Eversource's conceptual plans for changes to their substation on Sawmill Road (M 11G, L 307). Bonnie Kurylo explained they had already presented the conceptual plan to the Planning Board and conducted a site-walk. Nick Golon provided copies of the plan and reviewed it with the commission. He explained they would be replacing oil filled breakers that are an average of fifty years old with new vacuum breakers which will mean that approximately one thousand gallons of oil will no longer be on the site. As part of the project they plan to build a new control house. Nick Golon explained that they will be moving and replacing a screen of plantings. He told the commission that there were no wetlands impacted but part of the project is within the setback for the Shoreland Protection Act and they will be submitting a DES application. Nick Golon said that currently about 42% of the property is impervious and they will be adding about 2,800 square feet (2%) but are still trying to reduce that amount before they submit the final plan. He noted that there would be no new impervious area within the town's 75' setback.

Terry Yeaton noted the North Branch River is a designated river and asked if they had presented the plans to the Contoocook and North Branch Local Advisory Committee (CNBLAC). Nick Golon answered they were planning on doing so.

Richard Head asked what was being decommissioned as he couldn't tell by the plans. Nick Golon answered that it was an old monitoring well.

Richard Head asked why they were expanding the equipment area. Nick Golon answered it was because of the required clearance from the new breakers under the National Electric Code.

Linda White asked about the fencing. Nick Golon said they would be replacing the 6' high sections with 8' fencing.

Bonnie Kurylo, Alan Roe & Nick Golon left the meeting at 7:40 pm.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **1. Corvus Training Group, LLC**

Chair Cherrington opened discussion to the Commission and reviewed basic information he had heard about the proposal that he had e-mailed to the Commissioners.

John Segedy recused himself from discussion of this item.

Linda White said she had talked to Brian Hotz (SPNHF) and they are aware of the Corvus proposal and also have interest in the property. She said that she had also talked with the property owner's real estate agent, June Manning and there was no purchase and sale agreement signed as of that morning.

Rob Drummond said he had researched other organizations that appear similar on the web but hadn't found a lot about this one besides their website.

Richard Head said it did not appear that they had a lot of information at this point. He said that the Commission should monitor progress and should encourage compliance with environmental regulations and make decisions as the process unfolds and they learn further information.

Rob Drummond thought it would be interesting to know current usage of the property to have something to compare possible changes to.

Richard Head said that he believed that DES had adopted Best Management Practices for gun ranges. There was discussion of berms.

Terry Yeaton noted that there was a public forum being held on Sunday March 6, at the Bradford Elementary School that had been publicized in a public notice from Corvus.

Brett Cherrington said he agreed with Richard that they shouldn't go off on speculation. He noted however that his greatest concern was the possibility of fast tracking a project without time for public involvement. He wants to make sure there will be time to study any plan, perhaps by hired experts if necessary. Brett Cherrington also noted that this property was highly valuable ecologically as determined by a consensus of sources including Hillsborough's 2014 Natural Resources Inventory, the New Hampshire Fish & Game's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan and the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership.

Chair Cherrington opened discussion to the public.

Ann Poole noted that hearing the phrase "civilian tactical" concerned her. She said that even if this group seems legitimate there could be a successor organization that wasn't as good.

Marian Baker noted the property is currently used by hunters, snowmobilers and hikers. She had brought the project to the attention of the HCC hoping they would keep aware of it.

Gary Sparks said he was just present to listen and get info. Because he might hear it at the Planning Board, he wasn't making a decision about the proposal.

Brett Cherrington noted that there were different Corvus groups on the web and the one in question here is the "Corvus Training Group".

Ann Poole, Gary Sparks and Marian Baker left the meeting.

John Segedy unrecused himself.

## MINUTES

### **1. February 18, 2016**

Terry Yeaton said the date for the minutes needed to be corrected.

**Richard Head moved: *To approve the minutes of February 18, 2016 as amended.***

**Linda White seconded. Motion passed 6-0.**

## CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Corvus Public Release** – forwarded by Laura Buono, Town Administrator.
- 2. Town of Hillsborough** – Monthly Financial Statement.
- 3. Town of Hillsborough** – Selectboard – Voting request regarding Article 26.
- 4. Five Rivers Conservation Trust** – Letter regarding their application for accreditation and notice of open comment period. After brief discussion, Chair Cherrington volunteered Linda White to work on a draft comment.
- 5. Stoddard Conservation Commission** – Request for letter of support opposing Bobcat hunting and trapping season. The Commission discussed this.  
Brett Cherrington noted that predator species tend to be self regulating. He said there was no need for controlling the bobcat population.

Linda White said she was against the opening of the season and would prepare a letter.

6. **Brett Cherrington – Marian Baker – Ann Eldridge and others** – E-mail thread regarding the Payne Property & Corvus.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

2. **Easement Monitoring** – Philbrick Easement  
Brett Cherrington reported that he had hiked the Philbrick Easement on February 21, 2016. He said he saw no infringements and the signage looks good.
3. **Trails and Signs** – Brett Cherrington said he had taken a couple of pictures of easement signs in neighboring towns that he will e-mail to the Commissioners.
4. **Lighting** – The Commission discussed. The Commission identified at least four properties that might have lighting not conforming to the town's lighting ordinance. Jim Young will follow up with speaking to the building inspector and asking him to investigate.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Contocook and North Branch River Local Advisory Committee (CNBRLAC)** – Jim Young reported that the Committee was in the process of updating their maps of River Access Points. He will bring copies for the HCC to view when they are complete

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Linda White seconded. Motion passed 6-0 at 9:09 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted:

John P. Segedy  
Recording Secretary  
Approved March 17, 2016