

# HILLSBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 3, 2019

Hillsborough Town Office

Approved Minutes

Present:

Commissioners: Richard Head, Chairperson; Linda White, Vice Chair; Russ Galpin; Roger Shamel.

John P. Segedy, Recording Secretary & Alternate; Jon Daley, Selectperson.

Chair Head called the Hillsborough Conservation Commission (HCC) meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

## MINUTES

### 1. December 20, 2018

**Linda White moved: *To approve the minutes of December 20, 2018.***

**Roger Shamel seconded. Motion passed 4-0.**

## CORRESPONDENCE

### 1. None

## OLD BUSINESS

1. **Wetlands Rules – Proposed Changes** – Richard Head provided copies of slides from a presentation put on by the Department of Environmental Services (DES) for the NHACC (NH Association of Conservation Commissions) and copies of the proposed changes to the wetlands rules. He then reviewed the slides / changes with the HCC. Richard Head described organizational changes and then noted that sections 300 and 400 have changes with most effect on Conservation Commissions (CCs) while sections 500 & 900 have some effects.

Discussing the proposed changes to permitting, it was noted that the proposal added *Scrub & Shrub Wetlands Adjacent to Water-bodies* to resources considered to have minor impact and *Flood Plain Wetlands associated with Tier 3 Streams* to Major Impact Resources.

Richard Head pointed out that there is an updated edition of *Wetlands Best Management Practice Techniques* that adherence to is generally a permit condition. The HCC agreed it would be a good thing to review this publication at a future meeting.

Mr. Head pointed out that Avoidance and Minimization were still considered important. An example provided in the handout materials was discussed.

Streamlining Permits by Notification was pointed out as an area of biggest change – in particular, decreasing the time to begin work from 10 to 5 days, and removal of Abutter notice and Conservation Commission (CC) review.

John Segedy pointed out that this was of concern to the NHACC as noted in their correspondence received at the last meeting. During discussion Richard Head said he believed that a reason for these proposals was minimal input currently being received from abutters and CCs. John Segedy pointed out that it was possible that the current 10 day time frame was too short to allow CC comment being that the HCC only meets twice a month and that some CCs only meet once a month and that if input is wanted perhaps the time should be increased.

**OLD BUSINESS****1. Wetland Rules continued:**

Richard Head opined that regardless of whether they are providing input CCs should still receive notice so they know what is going on in their towns.

John Segedy questioned if they would still be receiving copies of permits which are effectively after the fact notifications.

Roger Shamel asked why the rules were being loosened. Richard head said it was part of regular rules review and opined it was meant to speed up the process and make the process more efficient for the Department.

Jon Daley asked how this effects the towns rules? Richard Head said it didn't. The HCC discussed briefly and noted the town could make its own rules in some areas.

Richard Head noted that there were also numerous technical changes in the proposal but he hadn't reviewed them in detail yet.

Richard Head asked the Commission if there was interest in officially commenting on the rules? During discussion by the HCC, it was noted that the issue of why there are minimal comments (due to too short time period) should be brought up. It was decided that Richard Head would send e-mail with that info to Barbara Richter of ACC.

Jon Daley asked if there are cases that they would have commented on but didn't due to time. Richard Head answered that he couldn't recall one.

**NEW BUSINESS****1. 2019 Projects**

The HCC began discussing projects to work on for the upcoming year with the intent to continue the discussion at the next meeting. Suggestions include:

- a. Maintain properties and easements.
- b. House Rock – Clean up garbage & graffiti, Install sign similar to the one erected for the Gleason Falls easement. It was suggested that the youth services program might be enlisted to assist with the cleanup.
- c. Confluence Trail – Engineering study, begin work on engineered areas, maintain area roughed in this year. After discussion Richard Head will contact Robyn Payson about the possible need for a driveway/curb cut permit.
- d. Mill Farm – Finalize trail and install markers. Install sign.
- e. Property Interest list – Working from NRI (Natural Resources Inventory) and institutional knowledge create list of properties and areas that should be prioritized for protection and develop an out reach program for contacting landowners about the possibility of conserving their property..
- f. Create standardized model easement form.
- g. Surveying and marking of the Rowe Marsh property.
- h. Lake Lot – completion of marking / surveying.

**OTHER BUSINESS****1. Budget**

Jon Daley asked what distinguished the Conservation Fund from the HCC Budget in particular the Contract Services line item. Richard Head explained that the Contract Services Line item was for current projects. John Segedy gave as examples the NRI, surveying projects and trail projects. While the Conservation fund can be used for various conservation related projects, Linda White explained that generally it is held for the eventual purchase of conservation property or easements that may become available. Examples given include the attempted purchase of the Woods property, the purchase of

the River-walk extension and assistance provided for the protection of the Hope Thomas easement.

Jon Daley noted that the current draft budget has the Contract Services line being decreased. Richard Head said he would attend an upcoming Selectboard meeting to discuss the budget with them.

**2. Next Meeting**

Richard Head said he wouldn't be at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Roger Shamel moved: *To adjourn.***

**Linda White seconded. Motion passed 4-0 at 8:25pm.**

Respectfully Submitted:

John P. Segedy  
Recording Secretary  
Approved January 17, 2019