

Hebron Conservation Commission
MINUTES (approved April 20, 2022)
February 23, 2022

Present: Suzanne Smith (co-chair), Martha Twombly (co-chair), Barbara Kohout (alt), Debbie James (alt), Paul Connor

Absent: Patrick Moriarty, Don Musial

Guests: Stacy Darlington, Slim Spafford (Groton Conservation Commission)

Martha called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm
Both Debbie and Barb were elevated from alternate.

Barb made a motion to accept minutes of January meeting and Paul seconded. All concurred.

Permits: none to review

Charles Bean Conservation Area

Baseline Documentation Report: Members reviewed the report and made minor corrections. The report will include documents such as the original deed, minutes from Conservation Commission meeting where Charles Bean donated the parcel, monitoring protocols etc. Once complete, a copy will be presented to the Selectboard and the Conservation Commission will store a copy in the land use room. Members will do a final review of the documentation report and will approve it at the March meeting.

Members discussed how to best prepare for the summer season including preventing people from landing on the sandy beach. Signs did not help last year. However support from Marine Patrol did have a positive impact.

Members will do a winter monitoring tour of the Bean Sanctuary later this month before the ice melts.

Cockermouth River – Ben Hall is scheduled to remove a large dead tree which is leaning into the river near the start of Cockermouth Ledge Trail this week. Bob Wisniewski has given approval for Ben to remove trees blocking river flowage adjacent to his property.

Wetlands Protection Overlay District: Members tabled discussion of zoning changes for this year. Deadline is fast approaching and members have not clarified the next steps.

Invasive Species Burn Day

Monday March 7 has been scheduled as “Burn and Barbecue” day at the Town Forest. The date has been posted in the Town Newsletter and emails have been sent to “Friends of Hebron Town Forest” inviting them to participate. Activity will begin at 11:30 with a rain date of Friday March 11 same time.

Members continued the discussion of the proposed Serenity Campground/RV park along the Cockermouth River. The Town's attorney is reviewing all documents at this time. Conservation Commission members participated in a webinar on how to use the proposed FEMA map updates which include the Cockermouth River in Groton and Hebron. Martha shared the new proposed FEMA maps with members. Stacy Darlington, whose property abuts the Town Forest and the proposed campground on the opposite side of river, shared her research on Best Management Practices for campgrounds/RV parks. Hebron zoning requires that campgrounds allow 20,000 square feet per campsite or RV site. The proposed project uses the cluster housing premise to get to that square footage number. Ms. Darlington did the numbers and if 4 people per trailer are there for 120 days, she estimates that approximately 8000 people will be present during the course of the season which will impact the fragility of the Cockermouth River. Neighbors are concerned that the Spauldings (applicants) are also looking to purchase adjacent properties to expand the campground. With the information learned about the new FEMA maps and from Mrs. Darlington, Martha will draft a second letter to submit to the Planning Board. Members will then amend/approve the letter via email.

Steve "Slim" Spafford introduced himself as chair of the Groton Conservation Commission. The Groton Cons Com will be sharing the cost of the VLAP testing of Spectacle Pond with Hebron's CC.

Other Business: Conservation Commission Budget

Martha asked the Commission's approval to invest in 2 benches for the town forest from this year's budget as well as paying for removal of the large tree leaning into the river by Ben Hall. Members approved this.

Barb suggested that the Hebron Conservation Commission have a booth at the Hebron Fair. Booth cost is \$25. Members will discuss logistics at April meeting.

Barbara inquired about the HCC raising money for purchasing land for conservation or other ways to support conservation. A number of questions were raised about how HCC can raise money, who would hold the funds and what is the legality? Martha discussed the fund she is setting up for conservation. More details on that will be forthcoming.

Martha proposed the 2022-2023 budget for \$4000. Paul made motion to approve the budget. Debbie seconded the motion and all members concurred.

Suzanne made a motion to adjourn and Debbie seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith, Acting Secretary