



Town of Merrimack, New Hampshire

Community Development Department

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Planning - Zoning - Economic Development - Conservation

Horse Hill Nature Preserve Subcommittee of the Merrimack Conservation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

June 9, 2014

7:00 p.m. Town Hall Memorial Conference Room

Attendees: Newton Coryell, Roland Roberge, Matt Caron, Adrian Cote, Debra Huffman

Guests: Tim Adams, Ray Pouliot, Mark Taylor, Don Laliberte, Sharon Hickey, Barbara Watson, Richard Maloon

Call to order: Chairman Newt Coryell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers: Newt Coryell stated that while Lynne Wenz is caring for a relative with an illness, we should ask someone to help her out by weeding the flower beds at the HHNP parking lot. Sharon Hickey volunteered to help with the weeding. Deb Huffman will send e-mail to the Friends of HHNP list to get help for Sharon.

Request by the Riverside Christian Church: Pastor Ray Pouliot and church member Mark Taylor of the Riverside Christian Church sent a letter to the HHNP Subcommittee requesting permission to erect an 8' wooden cross on HHNP, and they attended the meeting to present their proposal. Some committee members expressed general support for the concept; others noted that this proposal would face difficult questions from the Town Council. There was also discussion of whether a cross would invite potential vandalism. Don Laliberte suggested the church consider creating an area for quiet reflection rather than erecting a cross, and several committee members thought this was a good alternative. Newt advised them that he will forward their request to the Town Council, since they are the governing body who would make that decision. The church members agreed to present their proposal to the Town Council.

Memorial Bench for Harold Watson: Newt invited Barbara Watson to attend the meeting so the committee could get her input on where to place the bench Newt built as a memorial to her late husband, Harold Watson. Newt explained that Harold was instrumental in putting together the parcels that eventually became HHNP, and he was a member of the HHNP Definitive Plan committee. Newt distributed pictures of the bench and proposed placing it by Luke Bradish's bridge, which is a beautiful spot very near the Watson's property. Barbara will speak with her grandson, who was very close to Harold and who knows the HHNP

property very well, to see if he has any preferences for where the bench should go, and she will get back to Newt with an answer. Newt stated that after the bench is installed there will be a dedication ceremony and Barbara and her family will be invited.

ATV Activity: Matt Caron stated that ATVs have been damaging the trails on HHNP quite a lot lately, and they have been entering mostly from the power lines at Naticook Road and from the Bowmen property. Newt suggested putting up more signs. Matt stated that the Merrimack Conservation Commission put up signs at Grater Woods and they were ripped down the next

day, so they put up a gate at Grater Woods and that is helping. Matt suggested that the committee should put up a gate at the power lines. Newt asked Roland to find out who the committee should speak with at PSNH. Newt will extend the gate near the Bowmen's property with a pole, chained and bolted in place, and he will speak with John Hall of the Bowmen's club.

Neighborhood Near Blodgett Hill: Matt Caron reported that the developers have clear-cut the forest adjacent to HHNP in preparation for building several homes there.

Trail Signs: The MCC has provided square white markers for the Loop Trail. Blue triangles for the Quarry Trail are not ordered yet but might be eventually. Newt asked if committee member Amanda Boerner or alternate Angela Martin (who were not present at the meeting) might volunteer to put up the signs. Debra Huffman will pass along the request to Amanda. Sharon Hickey volunteered to also help. Richard Maloon suggested that the committee use aluminum nails for the signs. Matt will provide the nails.

Trail Conditions: Matt Caron reported that the ATV damage near Post 9 (deep ruts) will need attention. The committee will consider re-routing the trail.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of March 11, 2014, were approved as presented by a vote of 5-0-0.

Comments from Members:

Newt Coryell reported that he will be submitting bills to the MCC for the belts on his tractor.

Matt Caron reported that he hears comments from the public that there should be more

benches

on HHNP. He reported that the high school is looking for projects for the wood working class and the benches would be an appropriate project for them. The MCC could pay for the wood.

Adrian Cote reported that he could provide most things that could be pre-fabricated out of concrete. He also stated that he hears all good things about conditions on HHNP.

Deb Huffman stated that the MCC would like a liaison to work with the beaver management team. Newt will talk to Gage Perry about it. Deb also stated that she will be working with the

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MCC to try to get Ben Kilham to give a lecture about managing a property that is home to bears. Don Laliberte suggested that she contact Todd S. of Fish and Game to see if they have a "bear facts" brochure.

Roland Roberge offered kudos to Newt for taking care of the parking lot, and kudos to Matt for the good condition of the trails.

Comments from the Public:

Don Laliberte stated that the committee was doing a great job on the trails and asked about the procedure for reporting issues. For example, there are broken slats on the walkway near the beaver pond that should be fixed. Roland Roberge advised Don to write comments in the notebook at the kiosk. Roland checks it every day and he will pass along any comments. Don volunteered to work with Matt Caron to fix the broken slats.

Richard Maloon reported that the Audubon Society did a bird count at HHNP recently. He also stated that the committee was doing a great job and it looks great out there.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 11, 2014. Newt will book a conference room.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.