Hollis Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2023

Present; John Mattor; Catherine Hewitt; Joanne Toone; Lee Klarman; Doris Luther, Madison Moody, Mary Hoffman

1. Catherine reported that the town has been logging town property at the Sports Complex, which has a special habitat with pitch pines, endangered butterflies, et. al. We let Mary know that HCC would like to be part of the decision process before any more logging takes place, so we can look at it through the lens of conservation. Mary recommends that we send a formal request to the Select Board to be notified when they are going to have logging done. This needs to be assigned to someone.
2. Mary reported that the ATV/snowmobile folks are looking for permission to use roadways to go from one trail to another. The question came up as to whether or not this should go before the voters.
3. Safe Cities: Safe Cities is an effort by dozens of cities who have already pledged to phase out fossil fuels and have endorsed the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Is this something the Conservation Commission could/should head up. Links to their website have been sent out to HCC members, so that we can discuss it at the next meeting.
4. Southern Maine Planning Commission can create the overlay GIS maps of areas we designate as sensitive areas for a fee not to exceed $2450.00. John reported that we have $53,000. In the Stewardship Account. Discussion ensued on whether or not we can use some of this Stewardship money for HCC interests. Catherine suggested that maybe we could use the interest on that account. We are in agreement that we should be able to have access to that money. We would have to run it by the Selectboard. SUGGESTED wording : IC is a signicfiacnt parcel of Conservation land in Hollis, and justification for creating an open space plan is to see it in context within the town and how it relates to other parcels in town and how it relates to other towns. Everyone is in favor that we should submit a request to the Selectboard. If we don’t use the $600 from this past years’ allocation, it gets rolled over into the next year. We decided to use this 600 and then some of the 600 allocated for the coming year . Madison will submit a request to the board. The balance of the 2450 may be covered by the Stewardship fund.
5. Mary spoke with Dana Packard about the Tea House. He hasn’t made any moves yet. He implied that he might have someone in Portland who might fund the move. Mary will get back to him.
6. Pirate Fest: Madison wants to make sure we are all ready for it. Joanne has reserved our space and ordered the educational safari box. They are thinking about planning a scavenger hunt. They need a table and a tent – Madison will provide those. Joanne says we have enough brochures. John said they have plenty of signs, etc. Ruth and Joanne and Sue are all planning to person the booth from 10am to 4pm.

7. Discussion about conducting nature walks are in the works. More people are likely to come in the fall, so they are postposing the walks until the fall. Mary suggested we recruit 3rd grade teacher in Hollis, Debbie McCarthy- School Number 929-2480. She may like to help with the walks. She has done them with kids for years.

8. John asked if anyone has done any maintenance on trail 5 in Googins Woods. Catherine said she can do some chainsaw work with John’s saw. Joanne pointed out that trail 2 in IC needs a bridge in some muddy areas. Discussion re: having a work meeting in July. We will try for Sunday July 9 at 9am at IC. Lee and or Madison will go take a look at the trail to determine what we need for repairs.

9. Discussion re: BROOKEFIELD presentation on Thursday, June 14 re: dismantling the Bar Mills bridge. It wasn’t very informative. The have lots of studies to conduct, water levels, water quality , etc. They will have to extend the boat ramp to accommodate lower water.

10. John brought up making a plant list for IC and Googins. He’s been talking with Arthur Haines who is a phenomenal botanist. Catherine offered that she and John could do a preliminary list, with Arthur supplementing it. John will try to contact him.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Luther