



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Conservation Commission



William Collins, Chairman

Dave Morin, Selectmen Liaison

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**DATE: May 8, 2023**

MEETING MINUTES: Below is a listing of minutes for the Hudson Conservation Commission. Minutes are not a verbatim record of each meeting, but rather represent a summary of the discussion and actions taken at the meeting. All Conservation Commission meetings are televised live and repeated during the following week on HCTV, cable television channel 22. Official copies of the minutes are available to read and copy at the Town Engineer's Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.).

Should you have any questions concerning these minutes or wish to see the original recording, please contact the Town Engineer's Office at 603-886-6008.

In attendance = X Alternates Seated = S Partial Attendance = P Excused Absence = E

William Collins  
Chairman  X

Carl Murphy  
Vice-Chair  X

Ken Dickinson  
Clerk  X

Brian Pinsonneault  
Member  E

Sandra Rumbaugh  
Member  X   
 E

Linda Krisciunas  
Alternate  X

Open Seat  
Alternate

David Morin  
Selectman Rep  X

Elvis Dhima  
Town Rep

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT 07:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

SEATING OF ALTERNATES: Linda Krisciunas seated as a regular voting member.

Public Input Related to Non-Agenda Items: None

### I. New Business

a. none

## II. Old Business

### a. **Brox Industries, Inc. Expansion Project – NHDES Dredge & Fill Application Review:**

Chairman Collins presented his letter that was drafted following our site walk conducted on April 13, 2023. A brief discussion on the NHDES Dredge & Fill Application process followed. Mr. Collins informed us that the Commission now only has 10 days to intercede on a Dredge & Fill Application. Mrs. Rumbaugh moved to forward the application comments letter written by Chairman Collins to NHDES requesting monitoring of the two wetland areas to be protected for their consideration. Mrs. Krisciunas seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 5/0/0

### b. **VHB recommendations for Wetland Overlay District:**

Chairman Collins reminded us that we need to address/formulate recommendations for a new Wetland Overlay District. He stated that it will be an agenda item for our regular June meeting and noted to review examples from similar communities throughout the region.

### c. **Dredge and Fill Permit Review Process:**

Chairman Collins explained the NHDES Dredge and Fill Permit Review Process using the Brox Application (report booklet) as an example. He noted that it is critical for the new Town Clerk to communicate receipt of Dredge and Fill Permit Applications to Chairman Collins, so the Commission can review prior to the 10 day notification period expiring. Chairman Collins encouraged everyone to read the Brox application.

Mrs. Krisciunas asked why the applicant's representatives did not discuss the presence of Blanding's Turtles during our recent site walk. Mr. Collins replied that it is difficult to explain all aspects of a project during the site walk itself. Mr. Dickinson reminded everyone that the mitigation package is not fully finalized as the review process with both NHDES and ACOE is still active. Blanding Turtle activity might be still monitored; however the current observations are not near the proposed project area. Mr. Collins stated that we still have the opportunity to submit additional correspondence to the NHDES. A brief discussion followed regarding Blanding Turtle monitoring. As a result, Mr. Collins will modify his NHDES comment letter requesting that operations staff be educated in identifying Blanding's Turtles and to have a clear process of how to protect these species upon observation. He will request that proper signage be installed in effort to warn and educate Brox employees. Mrs. Rumbaugh also had read through NHDES correspondence regarding the Brox Application. It notes that one wetland area was evaluated as a vernal pool, but it was lacking secondary indicators. Mrs. Rumbaugh asked what are the secondary indicators for vernal pools and will study the answer for our regular June meeting. Mrs. Krisciunas volunteered to review the Brox Dredge and Fill Permit Application Booklet

prior to our next meeting.

### **III. Other Business**

#### **a. Trail Work Day:**

The conservation commission rescheduled our May trail work day to Sunday, May 21, 2023, 9 AM – 12 PM with meeting point at 68 Pelham Rd. Our work may also include installing a sign post on the southern end of the Nacook Loop at Musquash Conservation Area (MCA).

We scheduled our June trail work day on Sunday, June 11, 2023, 9 AM – 12 PM with meeting point at the Kimball Hill Town Forest parking area. Both work days will focus on establishing new hiking trail segments at each location. Several sign posts also are ready to be installed.

#### **b. Trail Work Log:**

Ken Dickinson reported one new blowdown on the Nash-Hamblett Trail between bridges on the northern end (near Woodland Dr.). A brief discussion continued regarding plans for Pelham Rd. Conservation Area workday on Saturday, May 21, 2023. Ken Dickinson also reported that the Nash-Hamblett Trail, Meetinghouse Trail and Colburn Trail all have a few wet, muddy portions that require repair. A brief discussion followed regarding the importation of gravel in effort to restore the original trail width and construct appropriate diverters to alleviate erosion issues. Chairman Collins tasked Mr. Dickinson with calculating the amount of gravel necessary to complete the task for our regular June meeting.

Chairman Collins noted that we should schedule a separate work day this summer to improve trails located on the Pelham (easterly side) of Musquash Conservation Area (MCA). He mentioned that we should complete the trail map project within the next month or two if possible. Chairman Collins asked Selectman Morin if there was an issue with public access for hiking trails within the Robinson Pond Recreation Area. Selectman Morin explained that there should not be an issue; however he would verify it for us tomorrow.

Mr. Dickinson stated that he has spoken with a few licensed contractors in effort to perform poison ivy treatment at MCA. He will create work plan and map indicating proposed areas for treatment along trails within proximity to the new parking lot. Chairman Collins requested that a Japanese Knotweed treatment area around the Merrill homestead barn foundation should be also added to the bid request if possible. Mr. Dickinson requested Chairman Collins to inquire regarding Eversource's work schedule to clear vegetation along the MCA powerline corridor. Chairman Collins noted that spraying would be conducted soon along the corridor, but that he would inquire regarding their maintenance schedule. Chairman Collins asked Mr. Murphy if he had a hedge trimmer attachment. Mr. Murphy responded positively to this request and mentioned that it would facilitate clearing the trails located within the powerline corridor amongst other areas.

### **IV. Financial Status:**

Chairman Collins will add a Forestry Fund line item to our Monthly Report. Chairman Collins noted that only DASH operations (no chemical treatments) are scheduled this year on the ponds, therefore in FY 2023-24 less money than usual will be expended from our professional services line item. Conservation Fund Balance = \$760,932.

**V. Correspondence:**

Chairman Collins reviewed our monthly correspondence which included the following:

VLAP Water Quality Testing memo (vacant position for Ottarnic Pond) as submitted by Jane Bowles. Mrs. Bowles noted that the VLAP monitor needs to have their own boat to conduct water quality testing around Ottarnic Pond and its tributaries. A short discussion regarding job posting locations followed. Mrs. Rumbaugh asked if it could be posted at Hudson Senior Center. Chairman Collins will pursue this posting.

Lake Host Grant (\$0 award due to position vacancy)

**VI. Approval of Minutes:**

Mrs. Krisciunas moved to approve the regular meeting minutes for April 10, 2023 and site walk minutes conducted on April 13, 2023. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.  
Motion Carried 5/0/0

**VII. Commissioner's Comments:**

Mrs. Rumbaugh informed us that the Rangers Town Forest landing area layout and tree marking activities will commence tomorrow May 9<sup>th</sup> in preparation for timber harvest operations. Chairman Collins asked Mrs. Rumbaugh to obtain clarification from Eric Radlof on the landing area layout dimensions. Chairman Collins is in favor of a larger size area in effort to maximize invasive species removal now as part of this operation. Mrs. Rumbaugh will further coordinate with Eric Radlof and Chairman Collins to determine exact landing "clearing" area dimensions.

Selecment Morin requested a clarification on the Lake Host position. Chairman Collins informed us that the seasonal Lake Host positions at both Robinson Pond and Ottarnic Pond Boat Launches remain open. He clarified that both Lake Host positions are a paid positions, however the VLAP water sampling is a volunteer position. Further efforts will be made to post the Lake Host employment advertisement in multiple locations (as time allows). Chairman Collins stated that more effort is required by the Pond Associations to fill these vacant positions.

Chairman Collins informed us that work will be commencing soon on the Merrill Park boat/kayak launch improvement project as a matching State grant was recently awarded.

**VIII. Motion to adjourn:**

Mrs. Rumbaugh moved to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:05 PM; seconded by Mrs.

Krisciunas. Motion Carried 5-0-0

*Ken Dickinson*

Ken Dickinson, Clerk