

HOPKINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting 14 ~~17~~

Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7 PM

TOWN HALL

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 Harvey Buford, John Pennypacker, and Lydia Lanphear were present. The minutes of the October meeting were approved with minor corrections.

Featured items

Hopkinton Outdoors

Harvey provided the following feedback:

Add street addresses to trailheads to assist GPS and emergency response

Diamond Hill Swamp

parking areas were never built and should be removed from maps

trail is not blazed, map shouldn't be published

Crown Farm

a large tree needs to be removed to install the trailhead, may be costly

Blue Pond

there should be a trail shown that loops around the pond

Grills Preserve Hopkinton

add town to name of area to match sign and distinguish from Westerly

Kenyon Crossroads

Update map to remove colonial road; Tomaquag and Beaver trails intersect further south

Pelloni Preserve

Tomaquag is currently partially blazed, other trails need maintenance

Farm Viability Ordinance

Last call: members to review FVO and send feedback to Harvey

Planning Board update

John reported on two emerging plans:

Industrial solar installation on Frontier Road

Brushy Brook housing development

Old Business

RI DEM stream habitat and stormwater

Harvey looking for sites in town that may be eligible for RI DEM grants to handle stormwater and preserve habitats

State changes to wetlands regulations: there are none

New Business

Per a request from a planning board member, the commission discussed under what conditions it makes sense to require developers to post reforestation bonds to restore properties after projects expire (like industrial solar utilities). The commissioners present agreed that it doesn't make sense to require reforestation bonds. The main reason is that the town does not require that land be reforested at any time. Moreover, a developer is not likely to propose creating a forest as the next use for its commercial land. Given these two facts, the commission believes that developers would be incentivized to propose new projects and recover the full value of the bond than to spend the bond on creating forest.

Public Form

no comments were made

Action items

Members to review FVO and provide feedback to Harvey

John to update maps

The commission adjourned at 9 p.m.