Meeting was called to order at 7:10. Harvey Buford, John Pennypacker, and Lydia Lapheer 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; Tomquaq and Beaver trails intersect further south

Pelloni Preserve
Tomquaq 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.