

HOPKINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Remote Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 13, 2021

7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 Members in attendance, Harvey Buford, Chair, Deb O'Leary, Secretary, Lydia Lanphear and Bradley Hodge. Quorum.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting. Voice vote unanimous. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 29, 2021. Voice vote 3 yes 1 abstained.

Featured Items:

Budget: Peter Stetson is creating maps and kiosk posters for trailheads. There is money in the budget for this purpose.

Farm Viability: We drafted change to the language of the ordinance when it comes to solar. It was shared with Council via Councilman Geary. We will continue to review the FVO at our next meeting in June.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council: Elaine Calderon from the WSRSC explained that the ¼ mile around the rivers is considered an area of interest. There is no regulation to enforce a ¼ mile setback from the W & S rivers or their tributaries.

Officer Reports/Project Updates

The Planning Board has multiple meetings planned for both May and June. The hearings for Stone Ridge Solar project was heard at the May 5th meeting and continued to the May 19th meeting as was the Comolli Solar Project.

State Legislation: Several pieces of legislation pertaining to farms and land use are being held for further study.

Old Business:

**Stone Ridge Solar (Plat 11 Lot 47A) continued to the May 19th meeting
Comolli Solar (Plat 2 Lot 73) hearing continued to the May 19th meeting**

Tech support from Town IT with Zoom and recordings: Our new town IT director, Jeff Frenette, has offered us assistance.

New Business:

Commission and Public Forum:

Thank you to Joe Moreau for his comments.

Quad Town Kayak Map: Would include Westerly, North Stonington, Stonington and Hopkinton.

Potter Hill Dam and Mill: This is just in the planning stages. Some concerns about how removing the dam would effect wells of property owners along the river.

Other: We have been asked to review the plans for the addition to the Wood River Health Center. Deb has questions regarding the well and septic.

Topics for next meeting: Review and make suggestions for improvements to the Hopkinton Farm Viability Ordinance. Copies will be emailed to HCC members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.