

# HOPKINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular meeting minutes

Thursday, February 13, 2020 7pm

TOWN HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Harvey Buford, Deb O'Leary, John Pennypacker and Lydia Lanphear in attendance.

The approval of the January meeting minutes will be moved to the March 2020 meeting.

Budget for the next fiscal year is level funding at \$3,500.00 for the next fiscal year. A motion was made and seconded to file an RFQ for work to be done for kiosks, maps and notice board designs. The Commission's vote was all in favor.

Narragansett Trail Restoration Project: from Wordens pond in South Kingstown to CT. Areas of the trail may need to be rerouted slightly. AMC is involved in preserving as much of the trail as possible. Parts are threatened by developments such as solar.

Stone Ridge Plat 11 Lot 47A: This solar project just came before the planning board for preliminary review. The Narragansett Trail crosses the property. A motion was made seconded and approved to send the following recommendation to the Hopkinton Planning Board.

"The Conservation Commission is aware that significant cultural resources exist on the approximately 245 acres of Plat 11 Lot 47A now owned by I-95 LLC. These resources include the historic Narragansett Trail, miles of interior stone walls, a likely ceremonial stone landscape with stone features of a Traditional Cultural Place (TCP), stone foundations such as the Worden farmstead, and the Worden Cemetery. This property is being proposed for a major solar development of most upland areas.

The Conservation Commission requests the Planning Board require all these cultural resources be accurately identified, located and depicted on the existing site plans before you undertake any review of the project. Further, the Narragansett Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club is the entity who should flag their Narragansett Trail on the property for mapping by the project engineer. The Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NITHPO) is the entity who should conduct a survey to verify if a TCP exists, and if so, propose how the TCP is to be identified, located and depicted.

Finally, the Conservation Commission requests the Planning Board work with the applicant for the purpose of creating sufficient open space, either by easement or fee simple, to preserve and protect Narragansett Trail and the cultural landscape resources."

Fairview Estates Plat 18 Lot 7K and Skunk Hill Solar

This small cluster housing development includes open space known as Goat Rocks. We are hoping to get a site walk with the Land Trust, and NITHPO to determine any historic or native american features.

Planning Board - John P. Fenner Hill proposal to redesignate a small area of residential land to the Golf Course. Other: see above

Legislation and Meetings - Deb O. No new land use legislation. Just a bill to lower the fee for growing hemp to \$100. From \$250.

Old Business:

FVO: Remind Councilor Scott Bill Hirst to have TC review our updated version.

Land and Water Summit: the summit is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th at URI. Vouchers were submitted to Town finance for reimbursement.

New Business:

Commission member forum: John brought up the topic of protecting our contiguous forestland and what that would entail.

Annual Reorganization: The officers and assignments will remain as is for 2020.

Other business: The Brushy Brook Accessible Trail significant alteration of a wetland has been noticed by DEM. Comments must be made by March 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.