

Hopkinton Conservation Commission

Remote Zoom Workshop

December 10, 2020

7:00 p.m.

The workshop was called to order at 7:08 Harvey Buford and Deb O'Leary from HCC present. Bob Marvel, Town Council Liaison, Elaine Calderone, Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council, and Tammy Walsh.

There is no quorum present. Suspend approval of minutes to next meeting. All topics on this agenda will be discussed at

our January 14, 2021 meeting.

Featured Items

Solar Projects and numbers. Harvey gave an overview of the solar projects to date. Approximately 400 acres and approximately 539% of the energy town residents use.

Preserving land as part of the project review process. Preserving land, especially culturally or environmentally significant land, can make some development projects better for the Town. Recent examples: Witches Rock in Fairview Estates and the addition to Grills Wildlife Sanctuary from the Comolli Solar Project. The Comp Plan encourages this sort of project betterment. It is important to see and point out opportunities.

Proposed changes to Freshwater wetland regulations by DEM.

Larger setbacks are one good thing being considered. We have questions regarding how rivers are named or mapped to be listed for 200 ft and 150 ft buffers. Unlisted, unmapped streams will have 100 ft buffers. We are updating and will resend our September 24, 2019 public comment letter to DEM on this topic. There is a Zoom workshop scheduled for December 17. Elaine Calderone will ask other members of the Stewardship Council how the original choices of tributary rivers/streams were chosen to be part of the Wild and Scenic River Designation.

#### IV. Officer Reports

Planning Board: Did not get to the last item which was Brushy Brook. It was a difficult meeting. No legislative meetings.

#### V. Old Business

Narragansett Trail Restoration Project. Harvey, together with the Nature Conservancy and AMC propose applying for a DEM large trail grant to work on parking surface and drainage problems at Main Street Trailhead, a new small Trailhead parking on Lawton Foster Road North and possible Trailhead parking along Stubtown Road. All would serve Narragansett Trail.

Farm Viability Ordinance update. Since the original ordinance, limited solar on farms was added by the Town Council. HCC held workshops with farmers several years ago and came up with recommended updates to the FVO but with the flood of solar activity, timing was not good to ask for a Town Council Workshop. We need to pull out and review the marked up version of the ordinance for possible action.

#### VI. New Business

Dem trail grant round (see item V(a) above) Applications due in January.

Commission/public forum. Thank you to Tammy Walsh for her comments and insights about our mission.

Annual Officer Reorganization (tabled to next meeting) no quorum.

VIII. Town Council Remote Workshop on Solar ordinance. Monday,  
7:00 pm.

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X. Adjournment was at 8:47 p.m.