

## **HOPKINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7p.m.**

- I. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 7:02. Members present were Harvey Buford, Chair, Gary Marsh, Vice Chair, Deb O'Leary, Secretary, Lydia Lamphere and Bradley Hodge and Town Council liaison, Bob Marvel. Also in attendance was Elaine Calderone from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council and Tammy Walsh from the Hopkinton Citizens Alliance.**
- II. The minutes of the November Meeting and the workshop notes from December were accepted and approved.**
- III. Featured items**
  - A. Solar projects and Numbers: Currently approved utility scale projects number approx 230 acres. There are currently 7 acres of farm solar.**
  - B. Sculco Solar Ordinance - January 19th, a continuation of the Town Council's workshop and possibly a rescheduling of the hearing until a date certain. Changes have been recommended to the original Sculco ordinance by TC and Town Planner.**
  - C. Preserving land as part of project reviews by Town. An example of this type of land preservation is the Fairview Estates Project. They are working together with the Land Trust to preserve the open space around Witch Rock. The Comolli solar project is expected to coordinate with the Land Trust as well. This could be a model for future projects.**
  - D. Proposed Changes to Freshwater Wetland Regulations due 1-22-21. We resent our previous recommendations to DEM plus comments on trails within wetlands.**
  - E. RIDEM trail grant round due 1-28-21 Applied for 57,000 grant to repair the Beaver Flood Trail. Working with Narragansett Chapter Appalachian Mountain Club at 4 trailheads on the Narragansett Trail.**

#### **IV. Officer Reports/ Project Updates**

- A. Planning Board (Deb). The Planning Board heard pre application questions from the Brushy Brook developers. It was recommended that the units be single family homes. Comolli solar and Casar LLC (two lot subdivision) were on the agenda.**

#### **V. Old Business:**

- A. Narragansett Trail Restoration: (see item III E above)**

#### **VII. New Business:**

- A. Commission Member Forum. Public Forum.**
- B. Annual Officer Reorganization: The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary will continue in their current roles without objection.**
- C. Farm Viability Ordinance Workshop This should be done soon. Farmers, State, Town Council and Planning should be at the table.**
- D. Annual Report. Deb and Harvey will prepare a report for 2020 to present at our March meeting.**

**VIII. Other - Harvey asks that Brad and Lydia check out the town maps on [Hopkintonri.org](http://Hopkintonri.org) website. And report back on their findings.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.**