

HOPKINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2022 MEETING
TOWN HALL
7:00 P.M.

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. All members were present.

II. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 6/9/22 meeting.

III. Featured Discussion: The members discussed 45-35-1 the state law authorizing the creation of Conservation Commissions.

We concluded we are following the law for the most part. We may need to do more diligence in keeping track of all public and private open space properties in our town and perhaps keep an inventory. More research on conservation issues. I.e. the prior infestation of gypsy moths and the current problem with local beech trees and supplying resource information for residents is needed.

Hybrid/ Meetings discussion: While we would like our meetings recorded for reference, we would prefer and encourage residents to attend our meetings in person. A motion was made and seconded to continue our non-hybrid meetings for the time being until the new town website launches to see if communication issues can be improved. All members voted in a favor.

A motion was also made and seconded that our next Conservation Commission meeting be held in September as all our members have extremely busy schedules during the month of August. All members voted in favor.

We want to go on record that all Hopkinton residents are welcome at our meetings and we always have a public forum on our agenda.

Officer Reports:

David Augustyn, Planning Board Liaison. Planning Board discussed the cannabis sales zoning opinion to the Town Council, The Cardinal Lane condo changes (administrative), Anderson Mixed use development in reference to safe storage of chemicals. Preserve Business Park preliminary. (Pancier Property).

Land and Water Summit Report:

Gary Marsh comments: Loren's Spears keynote speech was wonderful. Information for Land Trust legal issues was very informative. The Seminar on food waste (composting) and local food growing were helpful. The Solar Siting Round Table had differing opinions on land use.

Deb O'Leary's comments: Loren's speech reminded us of the indigenous people's wisdom and what we can learn from it. The seminar on food waste reminds us how small efforts can save space in our landfills and enrich the soil. The reception at the Tilted Barn Brewery was a great networking event. The Brewery is a great example of an addition to make a farm viable.

Member forum: Dawn - starting a Hopkinton Farmers Market in Sept-Oct. Notices will go out to Farms to get feedback and see if they are interested.

We would like to see people encouraged to apply to be a member of the Economic Development Commission. Deb will do some outreach to encourage folks. Will reach out to HopArts as well.

Topics for future meetings and action items:

WPWA has an intern working on Low impact development ordinances. When the report is complete, we would love to have a presentation. -David will look into this.

Look into area of Research Resources:
Beech tree problems - URI Cooperative Extension
Seedlings for Arbor Day
Grants available for various projects

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26. Next meeting September 8th @7:00 p.m.