

Approved Feb. 18, 2009  
Hebron Conservation Commission Minutes  
January 21, 2009

Meeting called to order by Martha Twombly, Chair at 7:03 pm.

Present: Martha Twombly, David Goldthwaite, Travis Austin, Arthur Cummings, Bruce Barnard.  
ABSENT: Roger LaFontaine, Ed Gempka. Travis acted as Secretary.  
Guests: Denyce Gagne, Alan Barnard

Natural Resource Inventory: Martha requested that Denyce come to our meeting. Denyce is in the process of finishing a Natural Resource Inventory in the Town of Grantham as part of her Master's Degree. Martha stated she wanted to bring in someone with experience in doing one to lay ground work that needs to be done in order to smoothly complete an inventory in Hebron.

General discussion ensued between Denyce and HCC members on what to focus on and at what time and who to hire to give professional help. Denyce stated she estimated the price of hiring a professional to do it all could cost around \$10,000. She stated that she thought it would be easy enough for the board to do if we just knew how to approach the project. She stated the best way for Hebron to do ours was to take advantage of using the best available information we already have such as topographic maps and aerial photography. She stated that no true field study would probably be needed. Discussions ensued about the resources we already have. Bruce commented on already having soil maps. Denyce stated that we might want to contact the Natural Heritage Board and they could also give us some helpful advice.

Denyce stated that all the information she used for the Grantham NRI was already done and available before she started the project. Denyce stated that if we did the NRI ourselves, and used already existing information, it would allow us to put our limited financial resources into other tools or projects. Denyce recommended possibly making maps of the NRI project. She stated the cost wouldn't be too significant. Martha stated she liked the idea of maps and that we could share them with the other boards in town.

Discussion was made about what things we would like to show on a map. Some types discussed were things like soil types, water, conservation land, wildlife and habitat, economic benefit areas, etc.

Martha stated Hebron has 17 Designated Wetlands and 8 or 9 Designated Streams through the Town's Wetland Overlay District. Martha asked how we should start, if we should do an overview of the whole town. Discussion ensued about this with the board agreeing an overview of the entire town would be best. Martha also recommended it might be beneficial to do some rare species testing areas. Denyce recommended that we contact the UNH Cooperative Ext. because they have a guide to doing NRI's. She also stated it could be beneficial to contact the Lakes Region Planning Commission. Martha asked Denyce if she thought the \$2000 we had set aside for this project would get us started. Denyce stated she thought it would be good to get us started but she didn't know who we were thinking of getting help from and how much they were charging. Bruce asked Denyce if she was compensated if she would be willing to do some of the Arc View work that would be involved with the project. Denyce stated she didn't have the program; she was using it on a student license through her Master's Program. Denyce recommended using the money we have set aside to do this mapping and that would be a great way to lay the ground work between the NRI and Forest Management Plan.

Forest Management Plan: Bruce started a discussion on how the NRI relates to the Forest Stewardship Plan. Denyce stated that she wouldn't worry too much about that right now and that the Forest Management and field work involved would be down the road a bit from now.

Review survey of reserved areas – Alan Barnard: Alan came to the meeting with survey maps he had created on the Town Forest. Alan presented a Field Area Work Map, Compilation Plan Map, and a Map that showed the entire Town Forest with Topography and Boundary Lines. Discussion ensued on possible reserved areas we could designate to comply with SPNHF.

Alan pointed out an area near the access bridge to the forest from Groton Road. The property boundaries near the bridge might cause a future problem for working on the bridge due to abutters. Martha asked Alan if he would come up with a recommendation to alleviate this issue. Alan said he would talk to Alan Esty about possibly giving an easement on the adjoining property near the bridge. Travis made a motion to accept Alan's plan to discuss getting an easement from Alan Esty, to change the access road into a 66' wide path. Bruce Seconded. Motion past unanimously.

Bruce gave an update on a 2009 Town Meeting Warrant Article to raise and appropriate money to have FORCO, a forest resource consultant company create a Forest Stewardship Plan. Bruce stated the reason for this was to lay the groundwork to make the Town Forest a Working Forest.

Martha gave an update on a 2009 Town Meeting Warrant Article to raise and appropriate money to be donated to the Spectacle Pond Association for the use of restoring their Dam.

There was a discussion on ideas of what to do with the house that is currently located at the entrance to the Town Forest. There was discussion on how much it would cost to demolish the building. Martha asked the group to think of ideas.

Town Forest Boundary Markers: Martha has gotten pricing and examples of boundary markers. A discussion of the marker's colors ensued. The commission agreed they should be dark green with white lettering and made from plastic. Discussion of marker spacing ensued. Martha stated she would speak to other land trust organizations about how they have done their marking to give us ideas.

Review of Permits: George Lawrence Application (Spectacle Pond) – They have reapplied for Shore Land Permit. Bruce gave an update. He stated they are going to need to apply for a variance from the town. Bruce stated that until this is done there is not supposed to be anymore work being done. McGowen's Property- DES has checked on the property and declared they were good for now. They will need a new permit to do anything further.

Larry Kill Property- Larry applied for an Alteration of Terrain Permit. The permit was asking for the alteration of 295000 square feet. The permit was approved as of 1/12/09.

New Business: The commission decided to skip the review of the budget and assignments do to the length of the meeting.

Martha led a discussion on ideas for the HCC letter in the town report. Ideas were recommended and Martha will due up the letter and email it out to the members for a review.

Martha shared a map that the NLRA completed. The map showed depth levels and water sources around the lake.

Meeting Adjourned at 2143 hours.