

Hebron Conservation Commission
July 22, 2020
Minutes (Approved at August meeting)

The Conservation Commission met on the town common and practiced social distancing. Martha called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Martha Twombly, co-chair, Suzanne Smith co-chair, Don Musial, Patrick Moriarity, Bill Luti.

Guests: New selectboard member Rick James, Chuck Beno

Minutes: Patrick made a motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting as written. Suzanne seconded. All concurred.

Review Permits:

Matthew Hughes Shoreland permit accepted with conditions by DES. Mr. Hughes owns 2 lots on Crystal Springs Road. The permit is for the former Sycamore shorefront property/approximately 80 feet of lake frontage. Plan was reviewed when the town received it. There have been numerous calls from neighbors to the town concerning the blasting of boulders and the noise which begins in the early hours of the am with no breaks on weekends. Hebron does not have a noise ordinance. Many complaints being made by abutters to town and state for issues related to both properties. Inspections have been done and so far they are doing what is being required by the state.

Charles Bean Sanctuary - Martha and Suzanne posted 4 new signs which clearly state: No landing of boats, No trespassing and citing the criminal trespass statute. Commission members have photographed the disregard of the signs, ie. many boats pulled onto shore, umbrellas and beach chairs, and pets and people on beach. These trespassers are arriving early in the am to stake their claim and stay there for the day. Additionally, there is more activity than ever on the sandbar "rafting." Over 4th of July weekend at least 20 boats were reported there. So far, there has been no vandalism of the signs, just complete disregard of them.

Commission discussed possible options for enforcement.

If every weekend, the police check on the Bean Sanctuary and ask boaters to leave, eventually they will stop. Patrick suggested the Conservation Commission send a letter to Selectboard about this conversation and observations (complete with photographs) and HCC's recommendations ie Hebron Police enforcement. This should be followed up by a meeting with Chief Travis Austin. Commission members discussed whether Selectboard could institute a fine for trespassing similar to the Penalty/fine at Hebron Beach.

Suzanne will inform Marine Patrol of the situation and ask what coordination between the town and Marine Patrol is possible. If HCC members gather registration numbers, can town find out who boat owners are so that Hebron police can pursue this avenue? Also request that Marine Patrol be a stronger presence on the lake and start ticketing people for speeding, lack of boater certification certificates etc.

Hebron Town Forest — Chuck Beno asked if there was a plan for logging in the town forest. Chuck stated that he seconded the proposal to purchase the property from Alan Esty at Town Meeting in 2007. He is opposed to logging in the town forest. Chuck has hiked and hunted all over the forest and believes it is a treasure and should be left undisturbed except for cutting of hazard trees, trails etc. Discussion as to whether cutting in the town forest would be beneficial or not. Patrick assured members that prior to any plan being implemented there would be a public hearing.

Little Bog Farm - beaver activity. Discussion of how to alleviate the flooding over Cooper Road. A larger culvert is needed and the road needs to be elevated to prevent flooding.

Other business: Chuck reported that there appears to be more bear activity than usual and wonders if anyone is concerned about this. He suggested talking to Audubon about cutting some of the overgrown brush (not the main field). It is deep enough that a walker could come upon a bear without seeing it. With the berries ripening, more bears will be searching them out.

Patrick reported that Jim Geekas our compliance officer has resigned and we are looking for a replacement. Compliance officer works with ZBA and Planning Board to investigate driveways etc. He also served as health officer for the town.

There being no further business to discuss, Suzanne made a motion to adjourn and Don seconded it. All concurred and the meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Smith, Acting Secretary