

Hebron Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
May 2021

Present: Martha Twombly (co-chair), Suzanne Smith (co-chair), Paul Connor, Don Musial, and Patrick Moriarty (via Zoom), Selectboard representative, Bill Luti, Alt.

Guest: Doug McLane

Minutes: Paul Connor made a motion to accept minutes as amended, Bill Luti seconded. All concurred.

Doug McLane made a presentation on the large vernal pool/bog explored recently on the north shore near Hebron beach (Lake Shore Dr.). Part of the wetland is on Doug's property but the major portion is on a small lot adjacent to him which is now for sale. Doug is concerned about disturbance to this unique bog if the land is purchased and developed.

Lisa Doner, PhD, at PSU studied this bog/pool in 2019 and determined it is a floating glacial bog. Carbon dating going down 6 feet shows evidence that it has been there for 9000 years, a residual of the last ice age. Martha will be receiving Dr. Doner's written report soon. Doug believes that this vernal pool does not have a protective buffer meaning the owner could legally disturb the area right up to the pool. A wetland scientist he hired to map the area recommended a 50-foot buffer around the entire wetland/bog. Martha and Suzanne suggested that if the wetland has been delineated, it could be added to Hebron's list of designated wetlands and would be subject to the Wetland Protection Overlay District (WPOD) buffer restrictions. Suzanne asked whether this wetland/vernal pool/bog was within the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act/statute. (SWQPA)

This led to a long discussion about the lack of compliance with the SWQPA on the Hughes property/Crystal Springs Road. Don who is also the town's Compliance Officer gave an update to members. Not following the approved permit has led to significant erosion /runoff into the lake. The town has issued a 'cease and desist' order to stop the owner from further work until the owner brought the property into compliance with the permit. A new landscaper is now working on the property, doing a good job and Don will be watching the situation carefully. Bill expressed frustration with both state and town enforcement of the SWQPA and wants to make sure that this does not happen on the area of the vernal pool/bog which Doug has reported on. Martha explained that Selectboard, Planning board and ZBA all have authority to approve or deny work, but again stated that HCC is advisory only.

Martha and Suzanne explained that any development on land in the SWQPA district requires wetland and Shoreland Protection applications filed by an engineer. The Conservation Commission receives these applications for review and comment on, but the HCC is advisory only and cannot approve or deny state permits. HCC reviewed the Hughes application, contacted DES with concerns which were answered. The permit was approved, but not followed.

Members discussed the limits of the Hebron Wetlands Protection Overlay District (WPOD). The ordinance only includes those wetlands which were delineated/designated in the 1980s by Amanda Stone for Hebron. The ordinance defines vernal pool, Hebron has not specified buffers for them. Discussion continued about whether and how to go about delineating/designating other wetlands and including buffers for vernal pools in the WPOD ordinance. Martha and Suzanne will research this issue.

Review Permits: DES Shoreland Permit 2021-01322 for a deck and retaining wall. Ahern property, 80 Indian Springs Road. DES is requesting more information.

Charles Bean Monitoring Protocol: Deferred until next month (time constraints)  
Charles Bean signage: Deferred until next month (time constraints)

Hebron Town Forest: Don has not been able to install rocks to be used as steps at the foot of the bridges on the Spectacle Pond Trail. More hazard trees need to be taken down, and Martha will reach out to Merrill's about cutting hazard trees on Cockermouth Ledge trail.

Trail Day in the Hebron Town Forest will be on Saturday, June 5. Suzanne will post a notice in the Hebron newsletter and will also send e-invites to folks who have signed up to be Friends of the Hebron Town Forest.

Family Fun Day in Hebron is August 14. Members of the Conservation Commission will lead a hike in the Town Forest. All are invited!

Suzanne made a motion to adjourn and Don seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Smith  
Acting Secretary