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**Town of Henniker
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 4, 2017
Grange Hall**

Members Present: Mark Mitch Co-Chair; Holly Green, Co-Chair; Sachie Howard; April Costa

Guests: none

Recording Secretary: Karen Rose

1) Approval of 4-6-16, 8-3-16, 10-19-16 and 12-7-16 minutes

A motion was made by Mark Mitch to approve the minutes of 4-6-16 with edits; Sachie Howard seconded. Motion passed 3-0-1 (Costa).

A motion was made by Mark Mitch to approve the minutes of 8-3-16 with edits; Sachie Howard seconded. Motion passed 3-0-1 (Costa).

A motion was made by Sachie Howard to approve the minutes of 10-19-16; April Costa seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion was made by Sachie Howard to approve the minutes of 11-17-16; Mark Mitch seconded. Motion passed 3-0-1 (Green).

A motion was made by Mark Mitch to approve the minutes of 12-7-16 with edits; Holly Green seconded. Motion passed 2-0-2 (Costa, Howard).

2) Correspondence

Mark Mitch passed around an Intent to Cut as follows:

Lot 568B 99 Cody Hill Road Owners: Gary and Elizabeth Wolfe
Intent to Cut filed 11-29-16 –would like to use the existing landing by a previously used logger for another cut. No indication of wetlands involved.

3) Town Report article

Holly Green distributed a draft of the narrative she has written for the town report. She will include a sentence or two about each of the commission members and include an invitation for volunteers to sit on the commission. Mark Mitch mentioned that the final signage at Salmon Beuhler should be included as well. The report is due by the end of January.

4) Trails

At the previous meeting, Dave Woolpert stated he would speak with Board of Selectmen Chair Kris Blomback for specifics and Ross Bennett will speak with the trails committee. (*refer to minutes of 12-7-16*) Holly reported that Dave has since asked Ross to speak to Chair Blomback directly.

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5) Report on NHMA and NHACC training

Holly Green attended the annual meetings of NHACC and NHMA which she covered at the last meeting. One workshop she attended was with Granite State Rural Water Association. They provide grants for drinking water related projects. Primarily their grants cover staff time and educational outreach. Hillsboro got a grant to cover a mailing to landowners in their wellhead protection area. One idea of a project might be to do some outreach and public education on best management practices such as storing oil and pesticide control. An idea for a grant may be for wellhead protection. Mark Mitch mentioned we visited this when we worked on a water resources plan, however Holly indicated that the commission had not come up with a plan, that the work was not as extensive as it could have been. Mark Mitch suggested inviting Cogswell Spring to come to the commission in the spring to speak with the members. Holly Green stated she would speak with GSRWA to find out what they do and what type of projects they might be able to do.

Another workshop that Holly attended had to do with involving the community. Examples would be hikes on conservation land and if combined with another event, like Music on Main St. or Old Home Day, it might be more successful. Another idea is to have a Facebook page for the commission and posting pictures of activities such as monitoring easements. She also mentioned that Chesterfield Conservation Commission has applied for grants for trail maintenance equipment.

6) Other business

Sachie Howard thanked the commissioners for their support on the Azalea Park grant application. A grant was awarded to the Azalea Park Committee by DES for \$24,000 under the ARM program. On January 26, at 5:30 pm, there will be a meeting with the design engineer regarding the final design for the upland stormwater management. Once the final design is received, it will be sent out for bid in March. There will be 3 months to negotiate the contract and the work will be done during the summer school vacation. Sachie passed out copies of The Village with an article about this.

Holly Green stated that the 3rd Wed of the month which is held for the Commission in case they need another meeting, will still be held. However, the commission will only meet if a permit needs approval or some other urgent matter.

Mark Mitch informed the committee that he has the GIS files on the natural resource inventory.

Holly Green talked about disconnect between the committees, boards, and commissions and the town regarding the master plan. She talked about zoning and setting up conservation districts like the Mink Hills area which in particular has unfragmented land and wildlife habitat. She had heard statements made that the town does not warrant a conservation district. At the next meeting, she said the members should plan to discuss the master plan.

Holly talked about updating the NRI and showed the committee the binder of the NRI. The map in the NRI referenced an inventory in existence in 2005. She brought out a more recent wildlife map that the commission has on file and said the UNH Cooperative gave the commission the map, which she showed to the members. It is a draft map and she is sure Fish and Game finalized the map as it's in the Wildlife Action Plan. Some of the Henniker conservation land information is not in GRANIT and Holly will get the tract data form to fill out to send in conserved properties to GRANIT.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm by Mark Mitch and seconded by Sachie Howard. Motion passed 4-0.