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**Town of Henniker
Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, December 7, 2016
Grange Hall**

Members Present: Mark Mitch Co-Chair; Holly Green, Co-Chair; Dave Woolpert, Andrew Major
Guests: none
Recording Secretary: Karen Rose

1) Approval of 8-3-16 and 10-19-16 minutes

Given that some of the members were not present, the approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

2) Correspondence

The commission received an application for a driveway permit for Cote Hill Road Lot 568-C. Dave Woolpert informed the commission that he is an abutter of the property. The commission had no issue with this.

Mark Mitch stated that he had spoken with Mark Fougere and the applicants already have a permit that was approved until 12-19-16. They had not done the work in the 5 years the permit was active. However, they are ready to do the work now. Meridian Land Services inspected the property and the culverts and had no changes to the original permit.

A motion was made by Drew Major to approve the driveway permit application as presented; Mark Mitch seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

3) Report on November 19 Select Board Budget Meeting

Ms. Green reported that the Select Board has received the recommendation of the Commission's budget.

4) Adopt a Trail program

Ms. Green and Mr. Mitch reported that Kris Blomback, Chair of the Select Board, asked if the commission could take on buying signs for trails. It was unclear what Mr. Blomback was asking specifically such as costs, for conservation land or other land, hiking or ATV use, etc. The commission said they would like to get more clarity on this request. Mr. Woolpert will speak with the Chair and find out what he was referring to. Mr. Mitch stated that the commission should have Ross Bennett, who is on the trails committee, weigh in on the matter.

5) Report on NHMA and NHACC training

Tabled until the next meeting

6) Ideas for events

Tabled until the next meeting

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7) Other business/updates

Mr. Mitch stated that he sampled five lakes in Henniker and collected water from the outlet at the rookery. The phosphorous had a low ph value and he will redo the test and sample again.

Ms. Green stated that she has to write the annual report and asked for suggestions on things the Commission had done during the year. Some suggestions were resolving the burn pile issue, new commission membership, recognizing Martha Sunderland for her over 25 years of service, implementing a usable kayak launch and parking lot. She said a first draft will be at the January meeting. Mr. Woolpert suggested the review and transfer of the wetland at the Old Concord Road gas station/shopping mall. Also timber cut requests and the change of the water draw at Pat's Peak.

Ms. Green reported that the natural resources inventory was last updated in 2002 and it should be updated. She will handle the water use regulations portion.

Ms. Green reported that the conservation activity timeline was done in 2007 for the period of 2007-2009 and is overdue for an update. Mr. Major said he would help with this. One of the areas is to identify and monitor vernal pools which the commission can discuss at a future meeting. Mr. Major reported on the master database that the state is working on for vernal pools. Ms. Green went through the list and stated that some of the activities have been done. One area that the commission has talked about is public education. She suggested having monthly speakers or events, such as where school kids meet loggers at a logging demonstration. Mr. Major knows a logger that he will connect with.

Ms. Green stated that she found a Master Plan from 2015 which she did not know the town had updated. She thought this would be a good topic for a future meeting. She recommended the commission review the natural resource issues on site plans and subdivision plans. Mr. Woolpert stated that the commission gets plans when there are wetland impacts. Ms. Green said she went through the Planning Board minutes for a year and there were some issues with waterflow and tree buffers. She thought that the commission should be able to weigh in on some of these issues. It was suggested that the Commission show up at one of their meetings to offer the commission as a resource.

Ms. Green talked about another future project that could be done with the assistance of the Granite State Rural Water Association (GSRWA). This was something she learned at a session at the NHMA Annual Conference. In reviewing the Planning Board minutes there was an issue with Cogswell Spring and a discussion of an aquifer overlay zoning district. There was mostly resistance to this. The Commission brought up having a watershed district for French Pond and met with resistance as well. Ms. Green suggested that if the Planning Board doesn't want to see zoning restrictions, then we should explore voluntary activities and public education. The Granite State Rural Water Association worked with Hillsboro on a project to send letters to landowners educating them about best management practices to avoid water contamination. A municipality can submit an application for assistance with projects like these to the GSRWA. Ms. Green will bring a water resources map at a future meeting.

Mr. Major brought in some books on forestry for the group to use. They will be added to the small library at the town hall.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm by Dave Woolpert and seconded by Drew Major. Motion passed 3-0.